



NATIONAL HOUSING AND NATIONAL LIFE.

Discussion at the Twelfth Informal Conference, held at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 13th March 1918.

Mr. W. R. DAVIDGE [A.] in the Chair.

Professor S. D. ADSHEAD, M.A. [F.]: Probably it would be well if, before opening this discussion on "National Housing and National Life," I were to preface my remarks with a few words as to the modern use of the term "Housing." Used in its modern sense "Housing" does not mean "house building," and although in all probability at least one half of the time and energy of those of us who are members of the architectural profession is devoted to the building of houses, as any inspection of the Architectural Room at the Royal Academy will show, at the same time it is doubtful if one-hundredth part of our professional energy has been expended on "Housing." The term "Housing," as used to-day, means "the providing of living accommodation for the working classes," and when we have it on reliable authority that over 90 per cent. of the plans for working-class houses submitted to Local Authorities for their approval have not been prepared by architects, I think I am justified in asserting that the interest of our profession in this class of work has been, to say the least, negligible. This is a very serious statement to have to make, and one that is surely deserving of our closest attention.

The subject under discussion, National Housing and National Life, suggests at the outset an entirely new aspect of the position; let us therefore consider it from two points of view: (1) The interest of the general public in housing, and (2) the responsibility of the architect in regard thereto. That there exists at the moment a popular interest in housing amounting almost to an obsession on the part of the nation no one will dispute, and it is an interest which has the support of every phase of social and political opinion; indeed, so important has the question become that it is now recognised that the minimum accommodation and rent of a working man's house are bound to become factors of first importance in national standard values upon which will be built any new system of national finance. In effect, it means that the

minimum wage will be regulated, more than by any other factor, by the rent of the house; and the rent, be it economic or otherwise, must be such as will secure the minimum accommodation of a living room and three bedrooms.

It is a well-recognised fact in economics that rents are not subject to the same fluctuations as are the prices of consumable articles like tea, sugar and bread. Nor are they subject to the same conditions of supply and demand. A rise in the price of building materials and in the cost of labour does not produce a corresponding rise in rent. It simply discourages building, and people crowd more tightly into houses already built. Crowding at the present moment is abnormal, and the cost of building is extraordinarily high, and yet if 500,000 new houses were built under the present conditions, or anything like that number, and if economic rents were to be fixed accordingly, they would not all be occupied. A big proportion of the working classes would continue to live in crowded houses that were let at a much lower rent than the new houses, and would prefer to spend their increased wages in another way; hence the need for a national housing subsidy.

It may be considered by some that, in order to enable the working man to pay an economic rent for the new houses that it is proposed to erect at exceptional cost, the case would be met more directly by raising wages correspondingly. This may be so ultimately, but at the outset it would mean, as I have endeavoured to show, that overcrowding would continue, and the extra wage would continue to flow into the pocket of the owner of the older property.

But this question of rent is not a matter of primary importance to us architects, except as indicating that the new houses that are to be built will not entirely depend in the amount of their accommodation upon the ordinary laws of demand and supply. They will be regulated by the accepted national principle that a house with less accommodation

than four rooms is not considered satisfactory where there is any likelihood of its being occupied by a family. To-day there is a universally recognised appreciation of the influence of the house and its surroundings and associations on the lives of the people generally. The house must have an interest which the tenant can feel is his own. The standard repeat and the bye-law street have been condemned and are for ever doomed. This opens out to us the panorama of an entirely new world and affords opportunities for the architect which his imagination never before conceived.

Housing schemes must be laid out on town-planning lines; they must be placed as far as is possible without the confines of the city. They must be thought of not as spaces covered with packing-cases but as a collection of homes associated with one another in sharing the benefits of public buildings and public amenities. They must have gardens, interesting outlooks both back and front, and all the considered requirements of a complete community. No doubt some schemes will be urban and built within the city, but they will be laid out on quite new and interesting lines. I think that our slum areas will be gradually cleared and the inmates of the worst of them accommodated in well-controlled flats. We have yet a type of town building to erect which shall consist of a huge quadrangle of flats arranged around a square laid out with cobbles or gravel and decorated with flowers, and where the communal kitchen, the common washhouse, central heating and central lighting, and all the so-much-discussed advantages of communal and common sharing could be tried.

Having now sketched out what is to be, let me now come to my second point—viz., the qualifications of the architect to accept the responsibility of carrying out this comparatively new branch of his work. I mention the word "qualifications" in this connection because I wish to make it particularly clear that if architects are to undertake this kind of work—though they as a profession may not realise it—they have a great deal to learn about town planning, they have a great deal to learn about a modern system of housing, and they have a great deal to learn both of a practical and common sense nature that is at the moment much better understood by the engineer and the surveyor. In my opinion, the surveyor and engineer have, since the passing of the Town Planning Act, studied the subject in all its bearings, both much more seriously and much more generally than have the architects, and this not only in its immediate relation to the width and construction of streets but also with the wider view which we architects associate with architectural effect. I say this because I feel that our profession must bestir itself if it is to qualify itself to undertake the great work that undoubtedly lies ahead.

Let me make myself quite clear, and let me say that the housing scheme of the future will depend for its success upon an entirely different set of interests

from those that have obtained in the past. It will not be the interest that we have been wont to associate with the picturesque village of the past, those humble records of a rural history spread over long and restful periods of slow change in architectural style, in the different use of materials and in the weathering of brick and stone. The new schemes cannot depend upon any interests like these. They were built under totally different conditions from those obtaining to-day; their builders were country carpenters and their workmen real craftsmen, or if in Georgian days, when contracting became common, they worked under some inborn architectural influence, were not entirely absorbed in pocketing discounts and juggling with advances, and were quite simple men.

Nor again will the cottage of the future be built by the speculative gentlemen purely as a commercial enterprise, as have practically all the workmen's houses erected since the middle of last century. No, the housing scheme of the future will be laid out on town-planning lines, and the commercial aspect will not loom largest in the field; and whilst nowhere will there be standard streets it goes without saying that the cottages themselves will be built to standardised plans. But both cottage and street will now for the first time be considered conjointly, and in the grouping and composition that will follow will lie the architect's opportunity.

The recent cottage competition has proved a valuable and instructive lesson to the architectural profession. A general inspection of the designs submitted shows very clearly that as a profession we have not yet realised that the cottage of the future cannot be the cottage of the past, the former being necessarily a unit in a composition, the latter having an individual entity.

I sincerely hope that cottage building in the future will come to be the work of the architect. It is his own fault if it doesn't, but he must not think of cottages separately. I think that the profession would do well to have an exhibition of housing schemes, and I think it would do well if it were to offer through the Institute one or two prizes to students for ideal schemes. The profession must hold on to this housing while the nation is interested. It has made a very good start under Mr. Hare, our President, in arranging for these national competitions, and it has, I am pleased to intimate, arranged for a special, and what I believe to be acceptable, set of charges in connection with such schemes, and I hope it will continue to do more.

MR. GEO. HUBBARD, F.S.A. [F.]: May I ask Professor Adshead one question? He talked of this vast scheme for building half a million cottages, but he made no mention as to where the funds are to come from to put up those cottages. Has he any scheme in his mind?

PROFESSOR ADSHEAD: Part of the cost would be made up on business lines; the rest would be a subsidy from the Government.

Mr. ROBERT S. WEIR: Money lent without interest?

Professor ADSHEAD: Money handed over.

Mr. HUBBARD: You think that is a business proposition.

Professor ADSHEAD: Yes, a national proposition.

Mr. HUBBARD: I look upon this subject from an entirely different point of view from the one taken up by Professor Adshead. It seems to me that the suggestion he puts forward is that it is a matter of national importance that there should be these houses for the working classes. (Hear, hear.) If so, and the Government is to provide the money, I think you are going a long way towards stopping private enterprise. It is private enterprise which has invariably helped this country in all times of trial; and if there is a time of trial coming in the matter of erecting cottages for the working classes I think private enterprise may be left to solve the problem. Just regard for a moment what has been the effect in the past. I admit there is the growing evil of an insufficiency of dwellings for the working classes; that, to my mind, has been brought about partially by certain semi-philanthropic bodies, such as the Peabody Trust, the Sutton Trust, and Borough Councils, who have undertaken to put up dwellings and have been satisfied with a 2½ per cent. return on their outlay. The question is one of supply and demand. If there is the demand it is far better to leave it to private enterprise to create the supply.

Mr. HENRY R. ALDRIDGE (Secretary, National Housing and Town Planning Council): The essential feature of the remarks we have just listened to is that the interaction of the forces of supply and demand has met housing needs in the past. If that were true the argument would have very great weight. But I venture, with all respect, to submit that it is not true. When I hear that private enterprise has in the past met our national housing needs, my thoughts and my memories—going back over twenty years of housing work—bring up definite pictures. I remember, for example, a Northumberland mining village of absolutely worn-out shells of houses, consisting of one large room below and a kind of lean-to at the back, a movable step ladder leading to a bedroom above built under the slant of the roof, with the window beginning at the floor level and only rising about four feet. I remember that as a product of supply and demand in the past. I remember, as another example, the secretary of a workmen's organisation telling me that, a little while before, there had been an inquest in the village on the child of a miner which had met its death by falling down a bedroom step-ladder.

Speaking with experience of the past, I am clearly of opinion that private enterprise has broken down. If this be true—and I submit that it is not a matter of argument, but a matter which can be ascertained and accepted by men who are out to seek the truth—

then the argument as to the successful operation of the laws of supply and demand in the past vanishes.

I was hoping that Mr. Wills would have been here to-day, for I cannot help feeling that he is inclined to give more thought and attention to academic questions of economic theory than to questions which concern the daily life of the people. There is, moreover, too great a tendency in this and other quarters to say of any drastic proposal: "This is Socialism," and to overlook the fact that it may be Christianity.

Professor Adshead spoke of the attitude of the architect in the past. May I say—and I hope I shall not be misunderstood—that I think that when there is a "searching of heart" amongst architects and professional men generally there will be profound sorrow at their failure to rise to a great opportunity. Remember that in the building industry you are the cultured men; you should be the intellectual leaders. But you have been "dumb dogs" in the past when the housing needs of the people were being urged.

I believe we are at the threshold of a great period of Renaissance, and that if only the architect will rise to the height of his opportunity he will in this period take a greater place in national life than he has ever taken yet. But he must pay the price—he must take a living interest in social problems.

Professor Adshead spoke of the craftsman of a hundred years ago. The craftsman then was a living entity to the builder, and to the architect who designed the building. But in recent years the architect has never thought of the craftsman—except as a kind of individual machine—and the men of culture who should have acted as an aristocracy and have watched over with deep concern the welfare of the workers in this great industry have developed into a kind of "snobocracy." They have neglected their duty towards their poorer working-class brethren in this great building craft.

The architect must "set his house in order" and put an end to this period of neglect by combining with the builder and the workman to raise the whole status of the industry of which they are a part.

May I now deal with some detailed questions as to the need for preparing housing schemes. At the end of the war we shall be faced not only with a colossal housing shortage but with the need for providing work for great masses of men in the building industry. The building industry is a muscular industry, and has contributed very finely indeed towards the defence of the country. A third of a million will need to be demobilised from the Army, and it will be in the interests of national economy to see that these men shall be liberated as early as possible and sent back to work in their industry. More than another third of a million are engaged on war work, and when war work ceases the problem of utilising their energy must also be dealt with.

It is for these reasons that we are urging that schemes shall be prepared now. But it is suggested that we cannot make such preparations now! Surely

that is a pitifully poor view to take in regard to a great problem; it is a policy of drift. Personally I would a thousand times prefer to be condemned by every building paper in the land for advocating a constructive policy than commit myself to such an inept, miserable and wretched policy as a policy of drift. It is a policy which is ignoble, a policy which is everlastingly mean. Happily, despite all the criticism, our constructive policy holds the field—viz., that the Government should call on the local authorities of the country to prepare and hold ready housing schemes.

Professor Adshead mentioned that the Government will give grants-in-aid. Assuming the forecast given by Mr. Hayes Fisher in a speech at Manchester at the end of last year to be correct, this aid will take the form of a grant of one-third. That is to say, in a scheme costing £90,000, £30,000 will be given as a free grant. It has been suggested that similar aid should be given to private enterprise. But suppose you submit such a proposal to Parliament, what will Members of Parliament say in regard to the following problem: Assuming that a speculative builder is given a grant-in-aid to the extent of a third of the cost of construction (say £100 out of £300), at what price will he sell the cottage when it is built? The building cost will be £200—viz., £300 less £100. Will the builder be left free to accept the offer of the highest bidder? If so, then he will possibly be able to get £350, and the £100 given by the State will be a clear bonus to him. To go to Parliament with proposals such as these (which no responsible Member of Parliament can regard as worthy of serious support) is to be foolish and not practical, and when the Editor of *The Builder* suggests that in rejecting such proposals as these we know nothing of economics he is making a grotesque misstatement.

Speaking for the Committee of the National Housing and Town Planning Council, I should like to add that we have given most careful consideration to the problem of private enterprise, and I personally hope that much can be done in providing a wise solution for some of the difficulties. But you will not get a wise solution by attacking local authorities. Let us always realise that from the point of view of Parliament the local authority is the one body which can be trusted, because it works in the public interest. May I add that the statements so freely and so extravagantly made with regard to the greater cost of local authorities cottage schemes are untrue. I find on investigation that there are at least fifty schemes of cottage building by local authorities which are quite as good as any private building schemes. To those who say sarcastic things about these schemes of local authorities let me throw the challenge back and say: "Bring out your definite cases of extravagance in cottage building schemes—not slum schemes—and let us examine them fairly on their merits." The truth is that many critics of local authorities have been repeating, parrot-like, the ex-

travagant criticisms of other people. They have never ascertained the facts for themselves.

In conclusion, may I refer to a remark made by Professor Adshead. He said, "Housing to-day has become almost an obsession." If he means that everybody is now realising the need for action I am very glad, because we have been at the other extreme in the past. But why is it that this movement has touched the national conscience? Surely it is because we have, as a nation, in this war, "found ourselves." Men have come pouring out of houses which are not fit for human beings to live in—north, south, east and west—to serve their country. If they had had a "niggling" kind of patriotism they might have asked whether their homes were worth fighting for. But they have been good Englishmen and have put aside their grievances and sense of neglect. This movement will go forward because the conscience of the nation realises that a debt will need to be paid to these men. The debt represented by War Bonds will be paid—every penny of it. It is "up to" the conscience of the nation to pay in full this other debt—a debt which we owe to the men who are serving the nation so splendidly in the time of need.

Mr. HUBBARD.—I do not know whether I may be allowed to speak again, but I have been accused of advocating a retrograde policy, and I do not want that impression to remain unchallenged. All I ask is that you should strip the subject of sentimentality, and look at it from a purely business point of view. If the Government is to supply one-third of the cost as a voluntary gift, and not as a charge on the building, who will receive that gift when the builder sells the house? Such a scheme would be economically bad and unbusinesslike. I fully agree with every word that has been said as to the need for better housing of the working classes. "The life of the nation is in the breath of the school children," and if they cannot breathe pure air in their houses the health of the country will suffer. Let the standard of the dwellings be settled by authorities, and let private enterprise do the rest. If private enterprise has failed in the past, this has been partly due to the action of the semi-philanthropic bodies, who have stifled private enterprise.

Mr. W. S. PURCHON, M.A. [A.], Sheffield: The title of this Conference is, I think, particularly fortunately worded, "National Housing and National Life." I fear that as a people we have not realised the relation between the two. We are only just beginning to realise that our men, women and children are our greatest national asset. With this realisation comes the belief that a thorough overhauling of the housing of our people is an urgent necessity in the highest interests of the nation. Were it not for the fact that we know that housing has been undertaken in haphazard fashion in the past, we might come to the conclusion that the conditions which obtain in some of our towns and cities are the result of a deliberate

attempt to crush out our civilisation. Large numbers of our houses are of such a type that it is definitely known that they are having a most serious effect on our infant mortality rates, while the honest craftsman with a moderate-sized family is made to feel—not that he is a worthy citizen—but rather that he is an undesirable tenant.

For some years now I have been trying to interest the people of Sheffield in the problem of their own city, and possibly a few particulars of a concrete example may be helpful to the Conference. In 1904 new houses were built in Sheffield to the number of 2,527—a figure which was steadily reduced to 438 in 1915, and during the last three years 1,000 houses have been destroyed, whereas in the ten years prior to the war only 500 in all were demolished. Before the war our M.O.H. reported a serious scarcity of houses and an increase in the number of cases of overcrowding. In 1911 there were 4,729 overcrowded houses in Sheffield, and nowadays houses are being run—like the factories—on the shift system. Out of our 107,000 houses, 16,000 are of the back-to-back type, and here in the Royal Institute of British Architects I think I need not do more than mention that these houses are, in the very nature of things, unsuitable for their purpose.

In addition to these 16,000 back-to-back houses there are another 8,000 which are referred to in a recent official report as “more or less insanitary and unhealthy.” This gives us a total of 24,000 seriously defective houses, in which are dwelling some 120,000 to 150,000 out of our population of about half a million. Not only have the people who are compelled to live in these houses to put up with the serious inconvenience of having only one room to act as a combined scullery, kitchen, living room, parlour, bathroom and washhouse; to run the risks consequent on having no ventilated larder and on using so-called sanitary conveniences reached in many cases after walking some little distance down the street and across a yard common to a number of dwellings, but such is the amazing irony of fate that by many thoughtless people they are actually condemned as “slum-dwellers” to be unfit for a better environment. “They would turn a garden city into a slum in a year or so” one is told over and over again.

On the whole, one comes to the conclusion, after looking more closely into facts, that these fellow-citizens of ours are far from being what we understand by the term “slum-dwellers”; on the contrary, they are in the main self-respecting, hard-working men and women who are making an amazing effort to keep up a decent standard of life under difficulties which we can only dimly realise.

It must also be remembered that in the districts containing the back-to-back houses the infantile mortality rates are about double the English average. This is largely due to the absence of ventilated larders. When there is no suitable storage for milk a high death-rate among babies follows “as the night the day.”

We need in Sheffield 6,000 houses to make up the present shortage, 24,000 to replace the present unsatisfactory houses, and 1,000 new houses each year to provide for our normal increase of population of about 5,000. So that during the next 20 years we ought to build 50,000 houses. Looking ahead for 20 years is not, I submit, a wild dream of Socialism, but mere sound common sense. If the normal rate of growth is not maintained, well, we shall then have looked ahead for, say, 30 years instead of 20. And in looking ahead we need not stop at 20 or 30 years. The main advantage of this looking ahead is that it shows us the desirability not only of seeing that the new houses are well designed and well built, that new roads and open spaces are properly laid out, that ample provision is made for the sites of such necessary public buildings as churches, schools, libraries, baths, etc., but that it also obliges us to consider the present city in its relation to the future developments, whether the latter are in the nature of the usual extensions to the city or arranged as groups of garden villages more or less removed from it.

If we can only realise that during the next 20 years we are to pull down a quarter of our present houses, and that we are going to build half as many as we now possess, surely we shall realise that it will be well worth our while to consider the whole city and its developments as a complete unit. The sites of the defective houses are in many cases urgently required and most suitable for works extensions; we must see that they are not used less suitably.

Our present traffic facilities only provide with difficulty for present needs—extension of them may not be enough; they may need remodelling, and this should be considered before we proceed far with our building programme. The fact is that urban housing cannot be considered wisely apart from a consideration of the making of efficient towns and cities.

With regard to the planning of the houses I should like to emphasise the importance of paying increased attention to the question of aspect—the making, for instance, of necessary differences between houses built on opposite sides of roads. I hope we shall agree that a bath is a necessity in every house, and that while a large living room plus a scullery is far better than a small kitchen and a small parlour, in the case of large families a parlour in addition to the living room possesses great advantages, particularly if we think of the educational facilities for which we are hoping.

Apart from the important questions of planning houses and simplifying details so as to reduce the work of running a house, looking ahead and thinking of large numbers of houses ought to make us consider to what extent we can use various labour-saving devices. Much, I am sure, can be done, but we must not go to the extreme and turn our kitchens into engine rooms, so that mechanics will be needed instead of servants. The installation of patent dish-washers, for instance, might possibly lead to far more work than the old-fashioned washing of pots. At the same time we

should beware of dismissing suggestions as absurd without giving them careful consideration. I imagine nothing could sound more absurd to us than the delivery of gas to houses must have sounded to our forefathers, and the delivery of hot water to dwellings may turn out to be quite practicable.

Communal ideas should certainly be considered carefully, and experiments should be tried on these lines where conditions seem favourable, as here and there they undoubtedly are, but as a people we are not ready for them yet, and I doubt whether we ever shall be.

I am not an economist, but wish to say one word on the question of finance. Keeping down the cost of house-building is extremely important, but we should not let it develop into an obsession. After the war money will doubtless have a lower value than it had before the war, and one result will be the higher minimum wage, which I hope we shall agree should not be less than will allow the paying of the economic rent of a house in which a man and his family can live in reasonable decency and comfort. In Sheffield I know that many workers, not only under war conditions but also before the war, earned such wages that they could have afforded to pay higher rents, and doubtless many of them would have moved into better houses had such houses been available.

To me it seems clear that the housing problem is at the root of most of our social troubles, and that bad housing conditions are a menace to the future development of our civilisation. There is still great need for the education of the public on this point, and I trust that architects will help to put forward high ideals. The architect is still sadly misunderstood by the public. He has designed an absurdly small proportion of our present houses and he is condemned for the defects of those he has not designed. If the country realised more clearly the help which the architect can give in this pressing question the architect might benefit incidentally, but the gain to the community would be enormous.

At the close of the Boer War, Kipling, writing of the return of our soldiers, makes one of them say :

"Ow can I ever take on
With awful Old England again,
An' 'ouses both sides of the street,
And 'edges two sides of the lane."

The Boer War was a different thing from the struggle in which we are now engaged, and the "Tommy" of whom Kipling wrote was different from our present citizen-soldier, but there has been little change in the houses. Let it be part of our task to use our utmost endeavours to make the housing of the future something vastly better than the "ouses both sides of the street" at which Kipling's "Tommy" quite rightly turned up his cockney nose.

Mr. CHARLES T. RUTHEN [F.]: After Professor Adshead finished his paper, it appeared to me that the time of the Conference was to be taken up in the discussion of the problem of the ability or otherwise

of private enterprise to undertake satisfactorily the erection of these houses after the conclusion of hostilities. I am rather glad, however, that that much debatable point has not been pressed further. Still, I think it ought to be pointed out to those gentlemen who say and keep on saying that private enterprise did in pre-war days satisfactorily cater for the working classes, and that the same agency should be allowed to do so in post-war days, that private enterprise did not in fact perform this duty. The shortage of houses for the working classes in South Wales before the outbreak of war was variously put at from 40,000 to 75,000. That shortage had been accumulating for at least twenty years. If private enterprise was satisfactorily catering for the working classes, how did this shortage come about? Those advocates of private enterprise claim that something like 97 per cent. of the houses erected were built by various forms of private enterprise, and this statement is passed over as being conclusive evidence of the efficacy of these agencies to carry out this work in the days to come, without interference. We are to assume, therefore, that 3 per cent. have been erected by some other agencies, and that those other agencies are local authorities. I think I am perfectly right in stating that had local authorities (or others) not erected the 3 per cent., the advocates of private enterprise could have come forward with the statement that "we have erected 100 per cent. of the houses." Particular care is, however, taken to say that 97 per cent. of the houses "erected" have been built by private enterprise, not 97 per cent. of the houses "required." That is exactly where the trouble comes in. Supposing 150 houses are required in a district, and private enterprise erects 97 and the local authority three, what about the remaining 50 houses? No one has supplied these houses and no one appears to be willing to supply them. Now, in South Wales, this difference between the houses "built" and the houses "required" actually reached the huge figures stated before. It comes to this: that private enterprise has been gradually withdrawing from the smaller and cheaper type of working-class houses; particularly in my own district private enterprise has found this type less attractive and the class of tenant a little more difficult to handle. Therefore this lower or cheaper type of house has for the last twenty years been slowly but surely neglected. The problem in South Wales before the war was very acute, I may say very serious; but after the war the accumulated shortage of many years, added to that due to the almost complete suspension of building activities for the war period, will present a problem demanding immediate and comprehensive treatment. One could paint a lurid picture of the "shift" system in the colliery districts of South Wales in the use of housing accommodation.

I expected to hear to-day a discussion upon National Housing and National Life. I am prepared to admit, of course, that at the bottom of all discussions on these

questions must come the subject of finance; but I think it is time that those who consider finance only should go very closely into the question as to whether private enterprise has in the past performed the functions which it is claimed it could perform. If it has not done so, those who talk about private enterprise should admit it. They ought not to cling to this idea and attempt to ruin what is a real national project by adhering to what is, as they must admit if full enquiries are made, false. We want a little bit more humanity to start with, and just a little less book-keeping: it would be better in the long run. Is there anyone here or elsewhere who suggests that a real comprehensive housing scheme should not be carried out because it cannot be shown to be sound commercially? Does anyone suggest, for instance, that lunatic asylums pay? or that workhouses pay? Why, then, keep them up? Why not provide the workers with decent homes and not build lunatic asylums? Fifteen years ago I claimed that it was very much better to pay 1s. in the £ as a rate for a good housing scheme than that much or more for a good workhouse scheme, or for a good lunatic asylum scheme, or through the Imperial Exchequer for a jolly good jail. Surely it is very much better to give the people good homes.

I think Professor Adshead to a large extent covers the points I proposed to mention, but may I suggest that in the housing schemes of the future "housing" is a word which should be applied very, very broadly, very nationally, and that it should, if I may be allowed to suggest it, be made to cover the workshops as well as the homes of the people. Also that the whole planning should be broadly conceived, and not be merely considered as a scheme for providing some kind of cover for the people from the elements. On the subject of National Housing and National Life it appears to me that the question of housing should be interpreted in its comprehensive sense, industrial as well as social, in its relation to commerce, to industrial accommodation, as well as that of housing in the generally accepted sense of providing homes for the people. Housing in the past, that is, only in the sense of providing homes for the people, has been considered, except in the case of a few outstanding and well-known examples, apart altogether from the demands of commerce and of industry, with the result that there have been distinct and, one might say, unfortunate and unnecessary separations of classes. The homes of the workers have been established without any regard for that social well-being that one would suggest is necessary to produce a satisfactory condition of affairs. The requirements of industry have been considered apart altogether from the social needs of those who have to labour. This lack of consideration has resulted in the separation of the classes already referred to, and in the isolation of the working-class members of the community. The barrier between the classes has been in this way unnecessarily broadened, and a feeling of alienation is

thereby engendered. As a result there has been produced an animosity, a feeling of resentment among the great body of the working classes, which is so disastrous to national life and so productive of industrial unrest and strife. The lack of social intercourse and the absence of that feeling of friendly association have brought about an antagonism disastrous to national life and exceedingly difficult to combat.

The children of the workers are nurtured in an atmosphere of bitterness towards all other classes of the community, and the class of citizen which will compose the coming generation will, justifiably in my opinion, be antagonistic to the other classes of the community who have been able to occupy homes removed from the grime and toil of industry, while the workers and their children have been prevented from enjoying the opportunities of seeing the better and brighter side of life.

Professor W. R. LETHABY [F.]: I would like to associate myself with every word Mr. Aldridge said, also with every word Mr. Purchon said, as well as with those of the last speaker. I wish we could impress these matters on the government of this Institute. Could we pass some resolution here asking the Council to consider this matter with a view to forming some constructive policy?

Mr. ROBERT S. WEIR: I did not intend to speak. I came to hear what architects had to say on this very grave question of housing, not as an architect but as a representative of a local authority. Anything I may say is a result of my practical experience of the last few months, and I think you will agree that an ounce of practical experience is worth a pound of theory.

I am a member of a rural district council, and the rural side of housing appeals to me very strongly. I am afraid it is being overshadowed by the much larger problem of urban housing. I am always being accused of talking parish politics when I happen to get up to speak on this subject; but, after all, in rural affairs it is the parish that is the unit. The parish in which I live is sufficiently near London to allow of its having been developed as a residential centre within the last few years. And one of the great causes of a shortage of cottages is that a large number of houses have been erected—by architects mostly—and their clients have evidently not thought very much about housing their employees. These houses have enough land attached to them to require the constant employment of one or two gardeners, and there may be a chauffeur as well. These men in very many cases have had to find accommodation in the village. Being paid good wages they have been able to outbid the ordinary day labourer when a house in the village becomes vacant. There is consequently a tremendous shortage of houses in that parish, and it is only one of 18 parishes in the rural district. The Local Government Board some years ago sent down an inspector to report on the condition of the health of the people in this district, and he reported that it was very bad,

owing largely to the defective housing. When the Housing and Town Planning Act came into force the local authority was bound under its provisions to inspect the housing in the district. This was done by the Surveyor, who made reports on the houses which he considered to be unsatisfactory, but the local authority declined to give time to discuss these. A few cases which were appallingly bad from the public health standpoint were considered, however, and these were dealt with in a haphazard way. This went on until the Local Government Board issued their Memorandum a year ago, asking for details as to the state of the housing in the district. I then urged that this matter must really be faced. The result was that a Housing Committee was appointed, of which I was made a member and eventually chairman. This committee at once undertook an inspection of the houses which had been scheduled as unwholesome and unfit for human habitation. We are gradually going through these parishes, and it is perfectly appalling the state of things which we find. When the committee was formed the members had no idea what they were going to see. They have had their eyes opened. And it will be our business to open the eyes of the council also to the facts. I am perfectly sure that out of about 1,000 defective houses 400 or 500 will have to be condemned outright: they are on bad sites, the floors are below the level of the ground outside, and whenever there is even a moderate rainfall the rain soaks in.

I do not want to occupy the time of the meeting by relating in detail the difficulties we are up against: but the question of proper food storage room has been mentioned, and I should just like to say that in 90 per cent. of the houses there is none. You ask, "Where is your food cupboard?" and they show you with pride an old box with a piece of wire over it which the husband has made for the purpose. And you know what that means. The infant mortality is very high, and whenever there is an epidemic it is worst in these cottages.

To sum up the situation, we shall probably have to build 600 to 700 new cottages. Put it at the lowest, 500 houses at £300 each. That means £150,000 for one rural district of 18 parishes in one county in England. You may take that as a fair average. I know ours is not a particularly bad district. A friend of mine was staying in Norfolk recently, and he told me that from his own investigation he came to the conclusion that more than half the houses there were unfit for human habitation. How we are going to get over it all I do not know. I suppose that when the Government scheme is brought out we shall see. How the rents are going to be fixed I cannot say. I had a conversation this morning with a member of the Agricultural Wages Board, a landowner in Wales. He said that in considering this question of agricultural wages they are also considering the relation of the rent to the total wage, so that the agricultural labourer may be paid such a wage as will allow of his being able to pay a

proper rent, and so he will be in a position to demand an adequate cottage. There are also other points which will have to be considered; for instance, the question of the tied cottage as between the farmer and his labourer. This gentleman's opinion is that the tied cottage is a mistake. He considers that a man should be free to have his own cottage, so that if he were dismissed from one particular job he would not have to leave the cottage too. I have also talked over the matter with others in the country, and it seems to me that all the more clear-thinking people are of the same opinion. And, of course, with the facilities—which will be increased after the war—for getting about, even in country districts, it is possible that in rural districts we shall be able to build new little hamlets, groups of houses sufficiently large to each form a co-operative centre. And one thing which I consider to be very important is that in building new houses in the country districts there should be plenty of land—one-eighth of an acre I would put down as the absolute minimum. I have come across awful hovels with gardens one-half and one-quarter of an acre in extent and very respectable people living under exceedingly bad conditions in them. Asked why they lived there, they replied: "We love a garden, and we took this because it had a beautiful garden." I want to see all the new houses built, as far as possible, with good gardens. And that leads us to the wider question of the revival of craftsmanship in the country districts—though I shall not enter into that now—and the placing of soldiers on the land—both these hinge on the question of housing. Some say many of the people are not fit to live in good houses. So we get back to the original question of education. I have seen children going to the village school nicely turned out, and I have gone to see the hovels they have come out of. One wonders then how they can have been so nicely turned out. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Pughon said something about the back-to-back houses in Sheffield. There are lots in our country villages with conditions just as bad. I am glad to hear from him that there is some hope of Sheffield. I had a letter recently from a friend, an architect by training, a very skilful craftsman, who is in the Air Force and stationed near Sheffield. He says: "The only thing I can say about Sheffield is, I should like to see it blown up by dynamite and rolled over by a number of steam-rollers and left for ten years, and a new town started, under better conditions, somewhere else."

Mr. A. R. JEMMETT [F.] regretted that the discussion had been confined to the political aspect of the subject, for which the Government, not the profession, was responsible. So far as the profession was concerned it did not seem to matter very much whether houses were financed from public or private sources so long as architects designed them. Design was our special responsibility, and in his view it would be more profitable to turn our attention to our own shortcomings in this respect, as outlined in Professor Adshead's remarks. From our point of view we

were no doubt justified in priding ourselves on our domestic work, yet from another point of view it might be said that we have hardly yet begun to think seriously and systematically how best to express the national life, as we live it and understand it to-day, in the national housing. We seem rather pre-possessed by the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and do not go straight to contemporary life for our inspiration or make any definite effort to foresee its tendencies. Mr. Weir's experience of people willing to put up with miserable cottages for the sake of good gardens appears to confirm the view that cottagers share the modern tendency towards a more open-air life. From a modern standpoint a man's whole plot of ground—not merely his house—should be conceived as his dwelling-place—his home—and designed accordingly. The house itself tends to become more in the nature of a shelter from the weather and a store for personal belongings, while life is being actually lived more and more in the garden, so that space outside the house is as valuable and needs as much careful planning as space within. The tendency to sleep out of doors is growing, and a cottage with no facilities for this purpose seems rather out of date. This is only one of many technical points of arrangement and design suggested by Professor Adshead's observations, and they are surely more suitable for discussion at a conference of architects than the rival merits of public and private enterprise.

Mr. JOSEPH CROUCH [F.], Birmingham: I would like to mention a word in regard to rural housing. I am glad Mr. Weir referred to it, because it is a question which has been too much neglected in the past. With regard to the shortage of houses in rural districts, Dr. Addison referred the other day to the Report which was published in 1912, and which has been accepted generally as correct as to the condition of housing in rural districts. In that Report the shortage of houses in 1912 is given as 120,000, apart from the question of badly constructed houses and those unfit for human habitation. Since the war began it has been decided that at least three million acres of land previously in permanent pasture are to be broken up for arable; and those of us who live in the country know what has already been accomplished in that direction. This means that at least 30,000 new families will have to come on the land, which brings up the total to at least 150,000 houses which will have to be provided for in the near future. It is clear that in the rural districts it is impossible for these houses to be built to any extent in any other way than by the local authorities. I am a member of a local authority in a rural district in mid-England, and I know the class of people who compose these rural authorities. They are generally farmers, clergymen, and a few men of leisure in the district. The officials generally consist of a clerk, who is a local solicitor, generally a man of education and of fairly broad outlook, and the surveyor. The surveyor is not, as a rule, the sort of

man who by his training ought to be entrusted with the scheme of building these new cottages. We as an Institute ought seriously to consider the best methods by which the designing and laying out of these new cottages are to be prepared. It will not be simply isolated cottages in all parts of the country and in villages already existing: it will in many cases mean new villages with all appliances of communal life—churches, chapels, schools, village halls, etc. Who is to be responsible for the production of these new schemes? I believe there are two ideas under consideration: one is the appointment of Commissioners by the Government, who shall deal with these questions as they arise. The other is the appointment of some sort of Statutory Committee, formed of people in the district who have knowledge of the local requirements, persons of influence and standing, with a sufficient number of technical advisers connected with such committees. These Commissioners or Statutory Committees, as the case may be, will advise local authorities as to the best methods of procedure. It is, I think, a point on which we as an Institute might very well express an opinion as to what is the best method by which these new undertakings shall be brought to a successful issue. The question in the towns is not quite the same as in rural districts, where we have unspoiled Nature to deal with. In the country it is imperative that what is left of unspoiled England should be carefully preserved, and that architects who by their training have learned to reverence the past should have the control of the new developments. In very few cases will it be found that the local surveyor is the right man to be entrusted with this work, but in most cases it will be found that this will happen unless we as an Institute are able to influence public opinion in the right way.

The CHAIRMAN: The discussion has shown that architects are all very keenly interested in this subject and are anxious to bring about a right settlement. The only rock we show signs of splitting on is that of finance and economics. Mr. Purchon touched on a point which will appeal to all of us when he emphasised the fact that in the next quarter of a century we have not only to provide this large number of new houses but to rebuild a tremendous number of insanitary and insufficient houses. My experience shows that none of the figures which have been given are over-statements. Probably one-third of the existing houses, taking both town and country, are unfit for decent living. Some form of organisation is wanted, not only for the housing of the future but also for the treatment of existing insanitary dwellings. This Conference has performed a useful function in arriving at that agreement. Perhaps the meeting would accept Professor Lethaby's suggestion that the attention of the Council be drawn to this question, with the view of some definite steps being taken, not only to keep an eye on what has been done but to help things forward in the right direction.

Professor ADSHEAD (in reply): Two points have arisen out of the discussion which I think we should not leave the room without remembering, and they were raised by Mr. Jemmett. There is, first, the direct interest of the architect. And that direct interest, it seems to me, takes two aspects. In the first place, in what way can we, as architects, associate ourselves with this great amelioration of the condition of the working classes with regard to housing? In the second place, in what way can we qualify ourselves better to undertake this task? Professor Lethaby mentioned the importance of striking while the iron is hot, and not leaving the matter to die out with this meeting. And, since he advocated our passing a resolution, I beg leave to move the following:

"That the Council be asked to report as to what can be done by the Institute to interest and associate the profession in the housing question, and, in particular, to consider the feasibility of taking such action as shall result in the Institute and the Allied Societies throughout the United Kingdom taking active measures to meet the housing needs and housing problems in their area."

Mr. Lanchester seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The National Housing Competition conducted by the R.I.B.A. and Allied Societies.

The origin of this competition has already been recorded in the JOURNAL and the scheme of competition and the Conditions will be found in the issues for November and December last. The designs submitted were on view for a short time after the adjudication in the respective areas, the premiated designs in the provinces being eventually sent to the Institute and exhibited with the premiated designs of the Home Counties Area. The following is a complete list of the awards:—

CLASSES A, B, C: First Premium, £100; Second, £50.
CLASS D: First Premium, £50; Second, £30.

HOME COUNTIES AREA.

Assessors.—Mr. Henry T. Hare (*President*), Mr. E. Guy Dawber (*Hon. Sec.*), Sir Aston Webb, K.C.V.O., C.B., R.A., Mr. H. V. Lanchester, Professor Adshead, Mr. Paul Waterhouse, and Mr. Harry Redfern.

CLASS A.

First Premium: Mr. Courtenay M. Crickmer.
Second Premium: Mr. F. C. W. Barrett.
Hon. Mentions: Messrs. Wilson, Newton & Round, Mr. C. O. Nelson, and Mr. C. Wontner Smith (the latter's design purchased for 25 guineas).

CLASS B.

First Premium: Mr. Alfred Cox.
Second Premium: Mr. Courtenay M. Crickmer.
Hon. Mentions: Messrs. Wilson, Newton & Round, Mr. C. Wontner Smith, Mr. F. C. W. Barrett, and Mr. John C. S. Soutar.

CLASS C.

First Premium: Mr. Courtenay M. Crickmer.
Second Premium: Mr. C. Wontner Smith.
Hon. Mentions: Mr. Roland Welch, Messrs. Wilson, Newton & Round, and Mr. H. R. Gardner.

CLASS D.

First Premium: Mr. John A. W. Grant, Edinburgh.
Second Premium: Mr. W. R. Mosley.
Hon. Mention: Mr. C. Wontner Smith.

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL AREA.

Assessors.—Mr. John B. Gass, Mr. E. P. Hinde, Mr. F. B. Dunkerley, Mr. P. S. Worthington, and Mr. G. H. Grayson.

CLASS A.

First Premium: Mr. H. L. North.
Second Premium: Mr. R. L. Collingwood.
Hon. Mention: Mr. J. Arthur Cox.

CLASS B.

First Premium: Messrs. Briggs & Thornely.
Second Premium not awarded.

CLASS C.

First Premium: Messrs. Halliday, Paterson & Agate.
Second Premium: Mr. H. L. North.

CLASS D.

First Premium: Messrs. Halliday, Paterson & Agate.
Second Premium: Mr. H. L. North.
Hon. Mention: Mr. J. Arfon Jones.

NORTHERN AREA.

Assessors.—Mr. R. Burns Dick, Mr. William H. Thorp, Mr. James R. Wigfull, and Mr. L. Kitchen.

CLASS A.

First Premium: Mr. J. Hervey Rutherford, York.
Second Premium: Mr. Alex. Inglis, Hawick.

CLASS B.

First Premium: Mr. Alex. T. Scott, Huddersfield.
Second Premium: Messrs. Knowles, Oliver & Leeson, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CLASS C.

First Premium: Messrs. Knowles, Oliver & Leeson, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Second Premium: Mr. Alex. T. Scott, Huddersfield.

CLASS D.

First Premium: Premiated design disqualified after award.
Second Premium: Mr. R. E. Hastewell, Colwyn Bay.

MIDLAND AREA.

Assessors.—Mr. W. Alexander Harvey, Mr. S. Perkins Pick, Mr. Sidney F. Harris, Mr. Harry Gill.

CLASS A.

First Premium: Messrs. Stockdale, Harrison & Sons, Leicester.
Second Premium: Mr. N. B. Robertson, Leicester.
Hon. Mentions: Mr. A. E. McKewan, Birmingham; Messrs. Crouch, Butler & Savage, Birmingham, and Messrs. Ed. Garratt and H. W. Simister, Birmingham.

CLASS B.

First Premium: Messrs. Stockdale, Harrison & Sons, Leicester.

Second Premium : Mr. F. W. C. Gregory, Nottingham.
Hon. Mentions : Mr. N. B. Robertson, Leicester : Mr. Frank H. Bromhead, Hereford, and Mr. Charles F. Sims, Stoke-on-Trent.

CLASS C.

First Premium : Mr. F. W. C. Gregory, Nottingham.
Second Premium : Messrs. Stockdale, Harrison & Sons, Leicester.

CLASS D.

First Premium : Messrs. Cleland & Haywood, Wolverhampton.

Second Premium : Mr. A. E. McKewan, Birmingham.
Hon. Mentions : Messrs. Stockdale, Harrison & Sons, Leicester, and Messrs. Cleland & Haywood (the latter's design purchased for 15 guineas).

SOUTH-WEST AREA.

Assessors.—Sir Frank W. Wills, Professor Adshead, and Mr. James Crocker.

CLASS A.

First Premium : Messrs. Thornely & Rooke, Plymouth.
Second Premium : Mr. H. Heathman, Bristol.
Hon. Mentions : Mr. Chas. Cole, Exeter, and Mr. T. Bradford Ball, Weston-super-Mare.

CLASS B.

First Premium : Messrs. Thornely & Rooke, Plymouth.
Second Premium : Mr. H. Heathman, Bristol.
Hon. Mention : Major O. P. Milne, Pulborough, Sussex.

CLASS C.

First Premium : Mr. W. A. Greenen, Port Sunlight.
Second Premium : Mr. W. Ravenscroft, Milford-on-Sea.
Hon. Mention : Captain Cyril A. Farcy, Exeter.

CLASS D.

First Premium : Mr. Chas. Cole, Exeter.
Second Premium : Mr. W. A. Greenen, Port Sunlight.

SOUTH WALES AREA.

Assessors.—Professor Adshead, Mr. A. W. Swash, Mr. D. M. Jenkins, Mr. J. F. Groves, and Mr. J. W. Smith.

CLASS A.

First Premium : Mr. J. A. Hallam, Cardiff.
Second Premium : Messrs. Johnson & Richards, Merthyr Tydfil.
Hon. Mention (design purchased for 25 guineas) : Mr. Thomas A. Bevan, Cardiff.

CLASS B.

First Premium : Messrs. Johnson & Richards.
Second Premium : Messrs. A. Ll. Thomas and Gomer Morgan, Pontypridd.
Hon. Mention : Mr. C. Ernest Lawrence, Newport, Mon.

CLASS C.

First Premium : Messrs. Johnson & Richards.
Second Premium : Mr. C. A. Broadhead, Swansea, Glam.
Hon. Mentions : Messrs. Eaton & Cooper, Cardiff, and Messrs. A. Ll. Thomas & Gomer Morgan, Pontypridd.

CLASS D.

First Premium : Messrs. Johnson & Richards.
Second Premium : Mr. A. F. Webb, Blackwood, Mon.
Hon. Mention : Mr. Thomas Gibb, Port Talbot.

The whole of the premiated designs, together with three of those awarded Hon. Mention which were considered worthy of acquisition, have been sent to the Local Government Board. The drawings were accompanied by an

exhaustive Report from the President of the Institute addressed to Mr. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board. With a view to continuing the history of the Competition the following extracts are quoted from this Report :—

In each of the Classes A, B and C designs were invited for (1) an end or semi-detached house, (2) an ordinary "terrace" house of 18 feet frontage, and (3) a long fronted house one room deep only;* and in order to test their architectural capacity the competitors were asked to design them in groups. Class D is intended to be erected mainly in country districts.

Designs to the following numbers were duly delivered in the several districts :

Area.	Number of Competitors.	Designs Received.
Home Counties ...	336	686
Northern ...	100	226
Liverpool and Manchester ...	132	301
Midland ...	107	248
South-West ...	67	169
South Wales ...	66	158
	808	1,788

A Committee of Assessors for the purpose of adjudicating on the designs submitted was constituted in each area, and in each case a lady (in the Home Counties area two ladies) and a practical builder assisted the Committee with their advice.

The points which the Committee of Selection have borne in mind are the following :

(1) Adequate size of rooms ; (2) convenience of arrangements ; (3) a satisfactory architectural treatment having regard to the English tradition of cottage building ; (4) reasonable economy in design.

With regard to (1), it is considered that a living room should not be of less than 180 feet area ; that the principal bedroom should not be of less than 160 feet area, and that the second and third bedrooms should be as large as possible, bearing in mind the possibility of there being several children of each sex in one family. A suggestion has been made in this connection that it might be possible in the smaller bedrooms to arrange for beds in the form of bunks, one over the other where necessary.

As to (2), it is judged to be desirable that the living room and scullery should directly communicate with each other. The larder should be readily accessible from the scullery. The bath should be in an enclosed space in order to ensure privacy, and should have hot and cold water supply. In the case of the better-class houses, the bath is probably best placed upstairs, but it must be borne in mind that this involves extra expense in water services, &c. An exception must, however, be made in the case of mining districts where the bath room must of necessity be placed on the ground floor with as ready access as possible from an entrance, preferably that at the rear. Coals and w.c. should be accessible if possible under cover.

In each of the Classes A, B and C a house of 18 feet frontage was asked for. The competition, however, is considered to have shown that this frontage is too restricted to allow of a thoroughly satisfactory house without out-buildings, particularly in Classes B and C, and that the minimum width of frontage should be fixed at 20 feet.

As to (3), it is felt that a satisfactory architectural treatment is of great importance so far as the limitations of expense will allow, and that this may be attained without elaboration but simply by careful grouping of the houses, study of the design and spacing of windows, &c. In urban districts it will be advisable to avoid the use of dormer

* This wide-fronted house is intended for erection in positions where a satisfactory aspect for the living-room cannot be otherwise obtained, and for sloping sites where the erection of No. 2 would involve waste on account of the fall of the ground.

windows on the ground of expense and cost of maintenance; but it is suggested that in rural areas in many cases it may be well to incur the small extra expense of dormers. A hard and fast line in this respect should not be insisted upon.

In all the designs projecting wings or outbuildings in the rear have been practically eliminated, as it is considered that the rear of houses of this class should be as open and free from building as possible.

With regard to (4), it is impossible at the present time to give any estimate of the probable cost of the houses shown. The cubic contents of each house are stated on the drawings, but it is impossible to say what is the present advance on pre-war rates.

The immediate erection of a pair of houses of Class A or B in or near London in an easily accessible position is strongly recommended. These might be on a site already in the possession of the Government, and in such a locality as to be ultimately available for normal occupation by working-class families. It is suggested that one of the houses should be completely furnished ready for occupation in consultation with a Committee of working-class women, and others who have made a study of the requirements. There are many valuable ideas afloat for improving the general equipment of these houses and for providing certain simple labour-saving appliances, which it will be difficult to materialise unless some such method as is suggested be adopted. If it could be arranged to erect a complete group as shown, the result would undoubtedly be more satisfactory.

The actual building of these houses will enable the cost to be fairly accurately ascertained under the present uncertain conditions, and will also provide an opportunity for inspection by local authorities throughout the country, committees of working-class people, and others interested in this question, in a far more explanatory manner to the general public than can possibly be the case with plans only.

Generally speaking, it is felt that, although nothing very original or revolutionary has resulted from the competition, a great deal of useful information has been received, and it has led to a very widespread interest and study of the whole problem of the design and construction of these cottages. If the competition is now followed by the erection of typical cottages as suggested, an important step will have been taken towards preparing the way for a really satisfactory solution of the problem of housing the working classes immediately conditions allow.

It is hoped that the Local Government Board will think well to issue a publication illustrating some or all of these designs. It should be emphasised, however, that such published designs do not obviate the necessity for efficient architectural advice before proceeding to build.

REVIEWS.

AN IDEAL INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE

Port Sunlight. By T. Raffles Davison, Hon. A.R.I.B.A.

Port Sunlight has been frequently described both in articles and separate publications, but the volume which Mr. Raffles Davison has written and illustrated is by far the most complete and vivid presentation of the village and its underlying principles that has yet appeared. Mr. Davison is seen at his best in many of the drawings, which give, in all those cases where a general view is aimed at, a far better realisation of the subject than a photograph. Mr. Davison, however, with rare reticence for a draughtsman, has by no means rejected the use of the camera, which for

detailed groups of cottages gives results for the architect which no sketch would quite attain.

Mr. Davison is particularly happy in the general bird's-eye view of the village and works, and of the Diamond, taken looking towards the Art Gallery, the latter building being still unfinished, by reason of the war. However well one knows Port Sunlight, this volume of Mr. Davison's must cause continual surprise owing to the wealth of material and the unceasing charm of the subject-matter. Though still not completely built up, Port Sunlight contains enough houses and institutional buildings to give one an idea of what such an industrial village can be like. It cannot, of course, be hoped that so much money will be forthcoming after the war to expend upon external details, as has fortunately been the case in Port Sunlight, but it will always remain a monument of what it was possible to achieve in the days of peace.

The descriptive letterpress is adequate, and covers nearly every aspect of the village, including the planning of the houses. These, by the way, are extremely simple and economic in arrangement, and are of such types that their use might easily be continued even under changed conditions. It would be fortunate for those who are interested in housing in this country if Mr. Davison would make this volume the first of a series: there are at least 12 garden villages and suburbs which are worthy of a monograph.

PATRICK ABERCROMBIE [A.].

THE LATE PERCIVALL CURREY [F.].

The death took place at Bath, on the 18th May, of Mr. Percivall Currey at the age of sixty-seven. The second son of Mr. Henry Currey [F.], he was educated at Eton and was a member of the Eton Eleven and in after years was well known as a fine cricketer. He served his articles with his father at 37 Norfolk Street, Strand, was elected an Associate of the Institute in 1880, and a Fellow in 1888. He was also a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution, and acted for some years as Hon. Secretary to that Institution. He was Hon. Secretary for 25 years of the Architects' Benevolent Society, in which capacity he acted with much kindly feeling and discretion in helping those in distress, and in this Society he was formerly associated with Mr. Arthur Cates, who held the post of Hon. Treasurer. At a meeting of the Council of the Architects' Benevolent Society a vote of condolence and sympathy with his family was passed.

Mr. Currey held the post of Surveyor to St. Thomas's Hospital, to the Duke of Devonshire, and to the Hunstanton Estate. His chief works were a new Nursing Home for St. Thomas's and a Reception Hall, temporary Huts for the wounded at a cost of £12,000, the new Pump Room at Buxton, and plans had just been completed for a new Out-Patients' Department, at an estimated cost of £60,000; also several private houses

and schools and factory premises. Shortly before his death he was engaged in assessing the value of buildings under the Ministry of Munitions and this necessitated travelling all over the country, which probably brought on an attack of his former complaint and hastened his end.

His was a singularly charming personality and he was most popular with all his professional brethren; as one of the members of his staff said, he was almost too kind a master. The present writer, who knew him from boyhood and was associated with him in business, can bear witness to his single-mindedness and devotion to duty. He was a true gentleman and his loss will be deeply felt by all his associates. He succeeded in his practice by his son, Mr. Harold W. Currey, who at present is an instructor in the Royal Garrison Artillery at Lydd.

W. HILTON NASH [F.].

RESEARCH INTO TIMBER.

In May 1916 the Institute Research Committee sent to the Advisory Council on Scientific and Industrial Research a considered Memorandum on the subject of Dry Rot*. The Committee have since been dealing with the whole subject of research into timber, and in continuation of their earlier report the following memorandum on the main subject has been sent to Sir Frank Heath, C.B., Secretary of the Advisory Council:—

That the subject of research into timber, with the view to its more economical use and increased production, is of supreme importance to this country, may be judged from the fact that in 1913, the last complete year before the outbreak of war for which returns are available under normal conditions, the imports amounted to over £40,000,000, three-fourths of which represented soft-woods and the remainder hard-woods (see report in *The Builder*, 20th October 1916, on Professor Groom's lecture on "The Empire's Timber Trade"). By far the greatest proportion of this timber as imported in times of peace was used for the building and allied industries.

For many years after the war there is little doubt but that there will be a great shortage in the supplies of timber, especially of the soft-woods; and an increase in the supplies can only be obtained by the following three methods:—

- (1) By afforestation on a large scale in this country.
- (2) By a much greater increased use in this country of woods grown in the various parts of the Empire, either—
 - (a) In substitution for woods formerly imported from enemy or neutral countries; or
 - (b) by the exploitation of new timbers not at present in common use here.

(3) By research work upon timber, with a view to the prevention of waste and to its more economical use.

As regards item (1): We understand this is being dealt with by a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet, before which the Members of this Institute have already appeared and given evidence. (The question of afforestation, however, is

different from the other points raised later, in that by the end of the war very little home-grown timber is likely to be available in this country, and afforestation will not produce results for building purposes for, say, 70 years; rendering it, therefore, all the more essential that the other questions should be dealt with promptly.)

As regards item (2), sub-clauses (a) and (b): This branch of the subject is being dealt with by one of the Technical Committees of the Imperial Institute (the Indian and Colonial Timbers Committee), which was originally started at the instigation of this Institute, and on which three of our members have the honour of serving.

As regards item (3): We suggest that this is a subject which may commend itself to the Advisory Committee of the Privy Council on Scientific and Industrial Research, as promising most valuable results. Should the Advisory Council decide to investigate this subject, we suggest that the following matters call for research:—

(i.) Research into the causes of and the losses due to the decay of timber through the following causes:—

- (a) Fungal (commonly called dry-rot);
- (b) Animal;
- (c) "Wear and tear" (e.g., in soft-wood blocks used for paving streets); with a view to eradicating such diseases or discovering or perfecting methods of preservation.*
- (ii.) Research into the question of the "seasoning" of timber—

- (a) By natural means.
- (b) By artificial means.
- (iii.) Research into the methods for rendering timber non-inflammable, or less liable to destruction by fire.

(iv.) Research into the uses of the waste products of timber (e.g., sawdust, chippings, shavings, small logs, etc.), either by chemical or other means.

(v.) Research into the conversion and mechanical engineering of timber with a view to its most economical use (e.g., by quartering, by rift-sawing, &c.).

(vi.) Research into natural and artificial methods for improving the "finishing" of timber (e.g., by staining, polishing, &c.):—

- (a) For its more efficient preservation.
- (b) For enhancing the appearance of the timber.
- (vii.) Research into the by-products of timber:—
 - (a) Of the fibre: for such purposes as pulp, wood-wool, artificial silk, &c.
 - (b) Chemical by-products such as wood-alcohol, acetone, grape sugar, acetic acid, &c.

(viii.) Research into the destructive distillation of timber and the residue left in the form of charcoal of different kinds.

(ix.) Research into the oils, gums, resins, and other products obtained from various trees.

(x.) Research into miscellaneous subjects, such as the fire-resisting properties of certain timbers.

(xi.) Research into the supplemental products of trees for industrial purposes:—

- (a) The bark of certain trees—e.g., for tanning.
- (b) The fruit of certain trees—e.g., the acorn, the horse-chestnut (for the manufacture of explosives).
- (c) The leaves of certain trees—e.g., for manure or other purposes (at present they are so much waste).

Signed on behalf of the Research Committee of The Royal Institute of British Architects.

DIGBY L. SOLOMON, *Hon. Secretary.*

* The Institute has already sent a memorandum on "Dry-Rot" to the Advisory Council, dated May 1916.

* Published in full in the JOURNAL for August 1917.



2nd Lieut. REGINALD FOWLER GUTTERIDGE, *Associate*
London Regiment.
Killed in action (see p. 95).



Lieut. ARTHUR H. TUCKER, *Lieut.*
Royal Sussex Regiment.
Killed in action (see p. 10).



EDWARD O'BRIEN, *Lieut.*
Royal Army Medical Corps.
Died on service (p. 267, JOURNAL, Sept. 1917)



Lieut. HENRY CARLETON BRUNDLE, *Probationer*,
Lancashire Fusiliers.
Killed in action (see p. 10).



Lieut. GEORGE FRANCIS BLACKBURNE-DANIEL.
Royal Fusiliers (*Licentiate*).
Killed in action (see JOURNAL for May 1917, and
p. 191 of present issue).



2nd Lieut. CECIL WALTER ROGERS, *Associate*.
Royal West Surrey Regiment.
Died of wounds (see p. 95).



Staff-Sergt. CLAUDE EDGAR HILL, *Associate*.
R.A.M.C.
Killed in action (see JOURNAL for October 1917).



9 CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W., 15th June 1918.

CHRONICLE.

R.I.B.A. Record of Honour: Fifty-third List.

Fallen in the War.

- MANN, 2nd Lieut. HENRY WILLIAM, R.F.A. [*Associate*].
Killed in action on 30th March.
BINNING, Sergt. ALAN, London Scottish [*Associate*].
Killed in action in Palestine, 30th April.
BELLAMY, Lieut. OSMUND, R.F.A. Killed in action
near St. Quentin on 21st March.

Lieut. Bellamy was for some time in the office of Messrs. Gill & Richardson, and afterwards with Messrs. Niven & Wigglesworth. Attached to the Atelier of Architecture, he was a student of much promise and a gifted draughtsman. On the day of the great battle Lieut. Bellamy was in charge of a battery section of two howitzers away from the main battery, and the position being considered untenable he was ordered to move his guns back a thousand yards. Here he worked his guns until they were knocked out, and he himself was killed instantaneously by a high-explosive shell. His brother officers speak in highest terms of his courage and cheerfulness. So much was he liked and trusted that the men would do more for him than for any other section commander.

DAVIES, LL. JOSEPH CHARLES GLADSTONE [*Associate*, 1911]. Drowned on service, 6th January.

Lieut. J. C. G. Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Davies, of Tan-yr-Allt, before the War had an extensive practice in Swansea and Morriston. He entered the Inns of Court O.T.C. early in 1915, served as acting-captain and adjutant in Salop, and relinquished a staff appointment in order that he might go to the front. Serving with the Egypt Expeditionary Force, he was on his way in a cart with his servant and luggage to relieve an officer on duty some miles away, and while attempting to ford a stream which was very heavily in flood, the cart overturned and was washed down stream. Lieut. Davies and the driver jumped clear and reached the bank, when they found that the servant, who could not swim, was still clinging to the overturned cart, which had caught against something about 200 yards down. They both at once went in again, and the driver managed to rescue the servant, but on looking round found that Lieut. Davies had vanished, and no trace could be seen of him. His valise was recovered the following day some five miles away and later his body was washed up and interred by his comrades.

REYNOLDS, Lieut. JOHN ERIC, R.A.F. [*Student*].
Killed in action on 18th May.

HOOLEY, TOM WILLIAMSON [*Associate*, 1896]. Killed
in action in France, September, 1916.

FINCHER, Private WILLIAM, London Regiment.
Killed in action.

Private Fincher was for thirteen years the Institute office attendant. Good-natured, capable, always willing and obliging, and absolutely trustworthy, he will be much missed and sincerely mourned by the Institute staff.

Missing.

PITE, 2nd Lieut. HORACE VICTOR WALTER, Hampshire Regiment, *Probationer*, son of Mr. William A. Pite [F.]. Reported missing in Palestine, 10th April.

STONE, 2nd Lieut. GEORGE MARRISON, R.E. [*Associate*, 1910]. Missing since August 1916.

Wounded.

BEVAN, 2nd Lieut. BASIL J., R.A.F., son of Mr. William Bevan [F.]. Wounded in action north of St. Quentin.

Military Honours.

Major-General CHARLES ROSENTHAL [*Assoc.* 1904], C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., has been appointed to command the 2nd Australian Division which has achieved such distinction in France. Three times wounded and once gassed, Major-General Rosenthal has been five times mentioned in Dispatches, and besides his English distinctions has been awarded by the King of the Belgians the Croix de Guerre for services in Belgium.

Before the War Major-General Rosenthal had a large practice at Sydney, N.S.W., and was well known in the Australian musical world as an organist and baritone vocalist. The profession of arms, however, had always appealed to him. He joined the Australian Garrison Artillery (Militia) in 1903, and in 1908 was transferred to the Field Artillery and commanded a battery, eventually attaining the rank of Major. When war broke out he joined up at once and left Australia as Lieut.-Colonel in command of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Division, A.I.F., and with this command took part in the landing at Gallipoli and subsequent operations there. In February 1916, having been transferred to the 4th Australian Division in Egypt, he was appointed C.R.A., with the rank of Brigadier-General. With the same Division he served in the Sinai Peninsula, France, and Belgium, being in the fighting at Fromelles in July 1916, on the Somme at the end of 1916, at Bullecourt early in 1917, and Messines in June 1917. In the following August he was transferred to command the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade, and served in that capacity in the Third Battle of Ypres before Passchendaele in October 1917, and in March, April, and May of this year in operations before Villers Bretonneux and Morlanecourt. At various times in France and Belgium he has commanded the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Australian Divisions, and on 22nd May was promoted Major-General and assumed command of the 2nd Australian Division. In the recent Birthday Honours List he was awarded the D.S.O.

WEBB, Major MAURICE, M.C. (son of Sir Aston Webb): awarded the D.S.O. for distinguished services in connection with operations which resulted in the capture of Jerusalem.

ATKIN-BERRY, Major H. C. (son of Mr. W. H. Atkins-Berry [F.]), D.A.A.G., Tanks Headquarters Staff: mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the D.S.O.

HAMMOND, Major F. S. [*Licentiate*], London Regt. (son of Mr. F. Hammond [*F.*]: mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the D.S.O.

WILLIAMS, Captain GEOFFREY HYDE, Yorks and Lancs Regt. [*A.*]: awarded the Military Cross.

HUXLEY, Major W. S., Royal Air Force [*Licentiate*]: awarded the Military Cross.

FRASER, Captain GILBERT WILSON [*F.*]: awarded the Military Cross.

MELLOR, Lieut. WILFRID LAW, East Lancs Regiment [*A.*]: awarded the Military Cross.

OGLESBY, Captain R. P., Staff for R.E. Services [*Licentiate*]: mentioned in Dispatches.

Promotions.

Captain H. P. G. Maule, D.S.O., M.C. [*F.*], has been promoted Major, attached Headquarters Staff, B.E.F.

Lieut. Edwin Stanley Hall [*A.*], Royal West Surreys, has been promoted Captain.

Lieut. E. G. Stevenson [*Licentiate*], has been promoted Captain, Staff for R.E. Services.

Private J. Jackson Beck [*A.*], of the Light Ordnance Mobile Workshop, B.E.F., has been granted a commission as 2nd Lieut. in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

2nd Lieut. E. B. Maufe, R.G.A. [*A.*], has been promoted Lieut., R.A., Aide-de-camp to G.O.C., R.A., B.S.F.

Architects under the New Military Service Act.

At the suggestion of the Architects' War Committee, the Council recently approached Sir Auckland Geddes and arranged for a deputation to wait on him on 16th May. The deputation consisted of the President R.I.B.A., Sir Aston Webb, Mr. E. Guy Dawber, Mr. Arthur Keen, Hon. Secretary of the War Committee, Mr. John B. Gass, representing the Manchester district, and Mr. S. Perkins Pick, President of the Leicester Society of Architects. In the unavoidable absence of Sir Auckland Geddes the deputation was received by Colonel Scovell, with whom were Colonel Hedley, Major Sim, Captain Lowe, Captain Duncan, and other officers of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.

Mr. HARE, in introducing the deputation, pointed out that their purpose was to secure that architects now to be called up should be placed in positions where their technical knowledge and experience should be utilised. Architects had no desire to avoid their full share of military service: out of some 4,000 on the Institute books between ten and fifteen hundred had already been serving and over a hundred had lost their lives. This was the second deputation of architects to the Ministry of National Service, the former one, which dealt with civil employment for architects in connection with the war, having had a most cordial reception by Mr. Neville Chamberlain. Many of the men referred to at the former interview were now, in view of the raising of the age from 41 to 51, placed in an entirely different position in relation to the Services, but he wished to make it clear that they possessed skill and experience that would be of far more value than any physical or clerical work that they could do. They were men of business and affairs, accustomed to responsibility and the direction of important undertakings requiring resource and initiative. In particular they were expert draughtsmen, used to maps, plans and drawings of all kinds, thoroughly well acquainted with the materials and processes of construction, many of them possessing good knowledge of land surveying and accustomed to making surveys and reports on property. They would readily adapt themselves to any constructional work that might be needed in the Army or

to such matters as arranging for billeting or hospital premises. The main question was how were they to be drafted into positions where the country would have the benefit of the best service that they could render. At present commissions were limited to men of under 35 years of age; it was important that this limit should be raised.

Mr. GASS stated that he represented a very large number of architects practising in manufacturing districts and many of them specialising in factories and other buildings connected with industrial undertakings. He showed that time, energy and material had been wasted to a most terrible extent in connection with Government work for want of just the experience and organising ability that architects such as these could have brought to the work. He handed Colonel Scovell fully authenticated written particulars of the gross mismanagement of building works carried out for one or other of the Services in his district, involving serious loss and waste and keeping large numbers of men practically unemployed at a time when the work that they might have been doing elsewhere was urgently needed. All this might have been avoided if men already in the Army had been put into positions of control for which their experience fitted them, but he stated that of twenty-four men who had gone from his own office only four, or possibly at the present moment seven, had been employed in technical work for which they were well fitted. Architects possessed specialised attainments which should be made use of just as those of doctors and dentists were, and the methods of selection used in the case of these professions should be applied in the architect's profession.

Mr. PERKINS PICK said that in all matters of building construction undertaken by the Government in this country the local knowledge possessed by architects might be of the greatest value in increasing efficiency and reducing expenditure: the organisations of the provincial societies gave the opportunity for making full use of this knowledge of local conditions and methods. He fully agreed with Mr. Gass as to the waste and mismanagement of building work carried out for departments under the Government. He hoped that when demobilisation began the architects would be among the first released, so that plans and preliminary work could be completed in time for works to be started as soon as the various craftsmen were available.

Sir ASTON WEBB said he was sensible of the courtesy and patience with which their views were being listened to, and they were really anxious to present their case reasonably and temperately. Speaking from his own immediate experience, there were but three men left of his own staff, all three of them nearly fifty years old and obviously useless as Tommies, but any of them could do most valuable work if they were put into the right place. The whole matter seemed to resolve itself into a question of the best means that could be used for getting each man into the place best suited for him.

Mr. ARTHUR KEEN showed one of the War Committee's War Service cards, and stated that they were authorised by the War Office and had proved most useful in helping men already in the Army to get commissions or transfers. He suggested that similar cards, authorised by the Ministry, might be given to architects and the particulars on them entered by the recruiting officer on the man's Attestation Form so that they would not be lost sight of. He stated that in his capacity as Secretary of the Architects' War Committee he had met with many cases of men of outstanding ability being employed in the Army on work for which they had no particular qualifications. On the other hand, he knew of architects who had shown the greatest resource and enterprise in carrying out building work under difficult conditions, using shell boxes and petrol tins in the construction of hospitals and mess rooms, and making drains out of disinfectant tins. He would be happy to do what he could in securing information about the men affected by the raising of the age limit.

Colonel SCOVELL, in reply, said that Sir Auckland Geddes himself was most anxious to get men put into their right niches. He was concerned with finding men for the War Office, the Admiralty, and the Air Force, and there was no doubt that in the next two or three months great raids on the man-power of the country would be made. He felt that long views of requirements were needed; but, on the other hand, the urgent needs of the moment had to be met, and it was clear that at the present time infantry were badly wanted and that technical branches of the Services might have to go short.

Captain LOWE said that he would shortly be asking the Ministry of National Service to supply older men to take the place of young men fit for Army service.

Colonel SCOVELL remarked that there should be no difficulty in placing most of the architects who would be called up—in Colonel Hedley's department, for instance, in which surveys and maps were made; in the Department of Fortifications and Works; in aerodrome construction, &c.; but this was not the time to discuss details. He was fully in accord with the wishes expressed by the deputation, and he thought he had better meet the Hon. Secretary of the War Committee at an early date in order to draft a form on which architects could set out their particular qualifications before enlisting, and at the same time other details could be considered. At the present time men of 43, 44, and 45 were wanted, but there was no reason why older men should not be received for suitable work before they were actually called up.

Mr. HARE having expressed the acknowledgments of the deputation for the hearing they had received, the interview terminated.

All architects who are affected by the extension of the age limit are asked to communicate with the Hon. Secretary of the Architects' War Committee, 9 Conduit Street, W., in order that they may be communicated with in due course.

Building Control after the War: Mr. Wills's Motion.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business before the meeting last Monday, the President called upon Mr. Herbert W. Wills [F.] for the motion of which he had given notice—viz. :—

That this meeting express disapprobation of the action of the Council in permitting a form to go out with their sanction in which the following clause occurs: "Reasons (if any) for which you consider it to the national advantage that the building should be erected without delay," and request the Council to inform the Ministry of Reconstruction that the R.I.B.A. is opposed to any form of war control of building operations being exercised after the declaration of peace.

Mr. WILLS explained that he was inspired by no hostile feeling to the Council in moving his resolution, but simply wished to obtain an explanation of an apparent anomaly—namely, that the Institute should have given its sanction to a form issued by the Ministry of Reconstruction, one of the questions asked being of a nature to suggest the endorsement of the principle of control which was opposed to a formal resolution passed at a meeting of the Institute last January. The member who had promised to second the resolution was not present. Perhaps another member would second it as a matter of form.

Mr. GEORGE HUBBARD [F.] said he would second the motion as a matter of form.

Mr. HERBERT SHEPHERD [A.] objected that, there being only nineteen members present, it was not competent to the meeting to deal with the resolution. A question of management of the Institute was involved, and to vote

upon the question a quorum of at least fifty members was required (Bye-law 67).

The Bye-law having been read, the President ruled that the objection was valid.

Mr. JOHN W. SIMPSON [F.] pointed out that whatever interpretation Mr. Wills liked to put upon it his resolution amounted to a vote of censure on the Council, and he apprehended that if it were carried serious consequences would follow. It would be a pity, however, if the matter were to collapse, and he suggested that Mr. Wills might be prepared to modify his resolution so that it might become a request for information rather than a motion of censure.

Mr. WILLS said he would do this with pleasure. His purpose in bringing forward the resolution in this form was to ensure a very large attendance so that as many members as possible might hear the satisfactory explanation which the Council doubtless had to offer. He was perfectly willing to modify his resolution if it would produce a full explanation.

Mr. SIMPSON pointed out that even if modified the resolution would be irregular and the meeting could not vote upon it. With the President's leave, however, he should like to say a few words upon the matter. Mr. Wills, he believed, had already had all the information that the Council had at their disposal. One reason why he should not persevere with his resolution was that the Council had nothing whatever to do with the matter. The guilty persons were himself, the President, and Mr. Waterhouse. It was they who were asked by the Building Materials Supply Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction to revise the form which the Committee had drafted. They revised it as drastically as they could, cutting out nearly all of it. Whether the form sent out agreed with their revised draft he was not sure.

The PRESIDENT: I think it did.

Mr. SIMPSON: At any rate, it had nothing to do with control; and a covering letter was sent out by the Ministry to explain that and to show that the questions asked referred to the first two clauses which formed the reference to that Committee, both of which dealt entirely with supplies of materials. The desire of the Committee was to ascertain what materials would be wanted when peace was declared, especially for buildings of national importance, the object being to obtain a supply of those materials as far as could be arranged. Later they came to the second two clauses of the reference, those dealing with control. That was a matter which it was considered should come before the Council; and the Institute representatives put it before them in the form of a summary which was published in *The Builder* and other papers about a month ago.* So the second part of Mr. Wills's motion, which requested the Council to lay the Institute's views before the Ministry of Reconstruction, had already been done; it was done a month before this resolution was brought forward. Continuing, Mr. Simpson said: I think we should all realise that, however much we may fight for the entire abolition of control, it is doubtful if we shall get it. I think it a very good thing to fight. We have met the Surveyors' Institution and the Builders' Institutes and have agreed to fight for no control at all, in the hope that we shall get as little of it as possible afterwards. But that we shall escape it altogether I do not think practicable. At the end of the war if you have no control you will have free markets—a very desirable thing in itself, but free markets mean a tremendous rise in prices, and that would be objectionable as far as building materials are concerned. The trouble is, that one of the most important materials we want—timber—is an imported material. And directly you come to imports you have to deal with tonnage; and, again, shipping is limited. You cannot bring your building materials and your other imported supplies into this country to compete in the open market with food, because if you allow food prices to go up—which will be

* See also JOURNAL R.I.B.A. for May, p. 165.

a natural result of open markets—if you allow them to go up to an improper extent there will be a risk of famine. And therefore you must assume that there will be an allocation of shipping; and if you are going to allocate shipping you must have control. How far that control will go nobody knows at present. But, bearing that in mind, we should be prepared to expect that for the first year, or it may be longer, there will be some limited sort of control by the Government, if not for home-produced goods, at least for imported goods. That, I think, is inevitable. That we should fight against it, and do so with the view of getting as little control as possible, and for the opening of markets as soon as possible, is extremely desirable, and on that matter the Council are united. That disposes of the second part of Mr. Wills's resolution.

Mr. WILLS: I quite agree with Mr. Simpson that we may not get all we want, and that we should fight for what we want, but the way to fight for what you want is not to give your case away, and I think approval of the form with that question on it is giving the case away.

Mr. SIMPSON: I have explained that that form had nothing to do with control; it had to do with the Committee of Supply.

Mr. WILLS: On this form is a question whether buildings proposed to be erected are for the national advantage.

Mr. SIMPSON: That has nothing to do with control.

Mr. FRASER: We had a communication from the Building Materials Supply Committee stating that this form had gone out after consultation with the Royal Institute of British Architects. Is that a fact, or is it a false statement?

The PRESIDENT: It is perfectly true. I will just add a word to Mr. Simpson's explanation. We were asked to assist the Ministry of Reconstruction to ascertain the quantity of material which would be required in various parts of the country for building operations, in so far as they were involved by projects which architects have in their offices at the present time. The Ministry had already sent a form out to public authorities asking them for particulars of buildings which they had in contemplation; and one of the channels through which they wished to gain information was that of architects who had work in their offices which was likely to go on immediately after the war. They asked us to revise a form which had been already drawn up asking for that information. That form we did revise, and pretty drastically. One of the clauses in the form was somewhat to this effect: "Give your reasons why this building should proceed immediately after the war." We altered the wording, but left the substance of it. There is no doubt that the Ministry of Reconstruction and other Departments of the Government have made up their minds that control of some sort will be necessary for a considerable period after the war, and they intend to have some kind of control. Does Mr. Wills suggest that when we saw this clause we should either have argued the question with them or have declined to have anything to do with them unless it was crossed out? To me the question which is asked on the form seems a perfectly harmless one and not worth arguing. It is a question which does not necessarily imply that there will be control: it is a question of providing certain information in case it should be found in the future that control is necessary. As to the views of the Institute and the views we have expressed to the Ministry of Reconstruction on control, these have been published in the professional Press and in the JOURNAL. That was another matter altogether from this circular. One claim only should be considered as entitled to priority—viz., that of works to be executed by, or on behalf of, the Government for immediately urgent national needs. All other claims should be regarded as equal; in other words, markets should be left free and unfettered by restrictions, so that production may be stimulated to its utmost, and prices thereby reduced to a

normal level at the earliest possible moment. I do not think we could express our views stronger than that: all control should be abolished at once. We have recommended it in the strongest way, and have enlarged upon it in giving our evidence. We did not admit we thought it advisable to have any control at all. Could we have done any different from the point of view of the resolution which was passed in this room?

Mr. WILLS: My contention is that, having given your advice as to the form, you should have asked the Ministry of Reconstruction to send out the form either with that one question deleted, or else with a note intimating your disapproval of it.

Mr. W. R. DAVIDGE: I move that the meeting do express its satisfaction with the explanations which have been given by the President and Mr. Simpson.

Mr. SHEPHERD: I will second that; and I would point out to Mr. Wills that there is another point of view, and that is that we have control at present. The whole aim of this Building Materials Supply Committee, as I understand it from their circular, was to have information in case, during the transition period from the time when peace is declared to the time when the markets for building materials are getting regulated, some system could be devised by which they could help the profession. And they ask in their circular letter—and that is where I cannot agree with Mr. Wills or understand his attitude in the matter—what they can do to assist the profession. They are there to aid us. Surely no practising architect could object to being asked the reasons he considers a building should be erected without delay as a work of national importance. If I had on hand a building of national importance which had been stopped by the war, it would be a great advantage to me to have it catalogued by the Government so that they could say, "This is a building of national importance and it should go forward." There must be a period of control or there would be chaos when peace is declared. It will take two years to deal successfully with demobilisation, and until that is dealt with the market supply of labour and material cannot be dealt with. This transition period is the sole reason of the circular issued by the Ministry of Reconstruction. If you can in any way help them to catalogue these important buildings it will be a help not only to the nation, but to the individual architect.

Mr. DAVIDGE: I think we should make it clear that we are with Mr. Wills in that we should have no control.

The resolution expressing satisfaction with the explanations given by the President and Mr. Simpson was then put and carried.

Building Materials required immediately after the War.

The Committee set up by the Minister of Reconstruction to inquire into the probable demand for, and supply of building materials for all purposes during the transition period after the war are instituting an inquiry into the probable requirements for such materials during the first two years after the cessation of hostilities. Forms of inquiry are being directed to local authorities and also to architects and others who may have schemes in contemplation. Unless the Committee are made fully aware of the prospective needs of consumers, it will not be possible for them to estimate how far supplies will meet likely demands, and their efforts to secure co-ordination may thus prove abortive. The Committee hope, therefore, that any person or firm contemplating building works immediately after the war, who has not received a form of inquiry will apply either direct or through an architect to the Secretary of the Building Materials Supply Committee, 6a, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W., for a form, which should be completed and returned by 1st July 1918. The Committee have

extended until 1st July 1918 the date for sending in the returns already issued. In cases where sketch plans only have been prepared, the preparation of complete plans and bills of quantities, &c., being postponed until after the cessation of hostilities, it would appear that no materials will be required until at least six months after cessation. As regards these works it will suffice if the undermentioned particulars are furnished: (1) County; (2) Description of building; (3) Estimated pre-war value of work; (4) Estimated date of commencement of building operations; (5) Estimated duration of contract. The Committee hope, however, that endeavour will be made by prospective consumers to furnish, wherever possible, approximate quantities of materials, especially building stone and bricks, steel and timber. Materials required for works of repair, maintenance, &c., form the subject of a special inquiry, and particulars as to these are not required at present.

The Birmingham Civic Society.

The Birmingham Civic Society, which owes its existence to the very strenuous work of the Birmingham Architectural Association under the direction of the President, Mr. Wm. Harvey [F.], held its inaugural meeting in the Council House on the 10th June, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham presiding and addressing the meeting on the objects of the Society. Among other speakers were the Earl of Plymouth [Hon. A.], who described the aims and methods of the London Society of which he is President; Professor Rothstein, who spoke on the human side of the problem and of the little chance the creative side of English humanity had had during the past few generations as compared with the calls of business enterprise; and Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who expressed the belief that the mere existence of a society which insisted that beauty as well as utility should be considered in the outward aspect of the city would make people think of the artistic as well as the economic side of what they were producing or erecting, and that not only public authorities, but private individuals, would welcome a tribunal whose opinions on matters of taste would be listened to with respect, and suggesting that a beginning should be made with public buildings.

The Society is to consist of Birmingham citizens who see the necessity of stimulating a wider concern for the beauty of their city. The following is quoted from a Memorandum issued by the founders:—

Nothing in our modern civilisation has been more mischievously underestimated than the influence of the physical aspects of a town upon the spiritual and moral life of its community. People who resent the dirt and ugliness in which a commercialised society has environed its common life, are at present forced to make their own private refuges where they can indulge their instinct for decent and beautiful surroundings. This is evil; a citizen's home should be beautiful, but it should be so as a happy contribution of the individual to a beautiful city. Instead of making a tolerable seclusion for himself with what taste he can, the citizen ought to look upon it as an honourable obligation to make his home worthy of the city that sets a clean and noble standard of comeliness. At present it is impossible for him to do this, since his city is mean and unlovely.

The aim of the Birmingham Society will be always to

keep in mind this ideal of a regenerate city. Its members will realise that sweeping schemes of reconstruction cannot suddenly be executed, but they will remember, too, that such reconstruction, however slowly it may be achieved, is the only hope of making the city we live in a monument to anything but our carelessness and greed.

The Society will by every possible means bring public interest to bear upon all proposals put forward by public bodies and private owners for building; upon the laying out of open spaces and parks, and generally upon all matters concerned with the outward amenities of the City and district. It will not presume for itself peculiar authority in matters of taste, but it will insist that taste is a thing that matters, realising that more than half the blunders that are made in this direction, to the lasting harm and discredit of the community, are made by men to whom, since their aesthetic judgment is not called in question, it never occurs that such judgment is of any account one way or the other. Conscience in this thing would be stiffened at once by mere expression of public interest; not one man in a hundred who is about to commit an offence against taste would defend his own bad intention for ten minutes if it were intelligently and generously challenged at the outset.

It is noted that architects are well represented on the Council, and that the Technical Committee will consist of four or five Architects, two Civil Engineers, and two Surveyors, who will act as advisers to the City authorities on all matters connected with City improvements.

Exhibition of Town Planning Drawings at Birmingham.

The Birmingham Architectural Association are holding an exhibition of town planning drawings at the Galleries of the Society of Artists, New Street, from Monday, 3rd June, to Saturday, 22nd June, both days inclusive. The prospectus states:—

"No charge is made for admission, as it is the intention of the Association to give as wide publicity as possible to the work on view, and especially to the general public, for whom the subject has become of great importance. Birmingham is about to develop town improvements of great magnitude, and the function of the architect in relation to the planning of towns is vital to all such schemes. A visit to the Exhibition will show at a glance that section of Town Planning in which architects, by their training, are supreme. The drawings on view are all of them interesting, and many of them very beautiful. They have been assembled at some cost and considerable difficulty, and it is hoped that the Birmingham public will take this opportunity of seeing what is being done elsewhere to improve convenience and amenity."

St. Olave's Church, Southwark.

The St. Olave's Church, Southwark, Bill was read a third time and passed the House of Lords on the 16th May, and is now before the House of Commons. It had been previously reported that the members of the Select Committee of the House of Lords had visited the church and had expressed the opinion that the church was useless and the churchyard derelict and disreputable. On the third reading a new clause was inserted to provide that the tower of the old church and a portion of its site and of the churchyard should be vested in the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association for an open space and a public approach thereto.

In the House of Commons on the 14th June, on the motion for the second reading, Captain Carr-Gomm moved the rejection of the Bill. He said the object of the Bishop

of Southwark was to devote the proceeds of the sale of the site for building purposes to the creation of a parish in some other part of the diocese where it was most needed. Under an agreement come to between the Bishop and the London County Council £5,000 of the proceeds was to be applied to the provision of an open space as near as possible to St. Olave's. To that the Bermondsey Borough Council was opposed. They held that the churchyard should be turned into an open space for the benefit of the people of the immediate district.

Mr. Whitley, Chairman of Ways and Means, said he was informed that both the borough council and the County Council had lodged petitions to appear and state their case before a Committee of the House, and therefore this was pre-eminently a case where the House ought not to throw out the Bill. He strongly recommended the House to read the Bill a second time and send it upstairs to be examined by a competent Committee.

Mr. Burns supported this appeal, and urged the importance of retaining the burial ground as an open space. A piece of land 100 ft. square or 50 ft. square opposite the Tower, with the Monument and many other public objects in view, would give more enjoyment than ten times the area attached to such a place as Southwark Park. It seemed to him that all the authorities—moral, spiritual, ecclesiastical, and architectural—were on the side of Clause 9. The district concerned was less provided with parks and gardens in proportion to the population than any other in London.

Another member pointed out that this was the only site on a river frontage of 3½ miles that was approachable by road. Elsewhere, from London Bridge to Deptford, the river could only be reached by tortuous back ways.

The motion was withdrawn and the Bill was read a second time.

A protest against the destruction of the church had been made on behalf of the Institute in the following letter which appeared in *The Times* of the 19th April:—

To the Editor of "The Times,"—

SIR,—Any appeal to public opinion upon a matter not directly connected with the tremendous events which involve our national existence is open to just criticism as untimely; but the extreme urgency of the occasion justifies us in asking you to publish our emphatic protest against the proposed demolition of St. Olave's, Southwark. On Wednesday next, the 24th inst., the House of Lords, at the instance of our ecclesiastical authorities, is to decide whether yet another City church shall share the fate of those already destroyed. Few concern themselves at present with any proceedings of Parliament save those which deal with the incidents of war; general and just resentment will be the greater when the irretrievable loss is perceived. We desire, therefore, to call the attention of all who are jealous of the beauty of London, and appreciate the historic buildings which are its characteristic feature, to this intended outrage.

It is not necessary here to expatiate on the merits of this gem of Flitcroft's designing, whose river front is familiar to all who pass over London Bridge. The value of our monuments is not to be judged merely by the use to which they can be put by those to whom they are entrusted; still less are their sites to be considered as financial assets, to be sold for commercial purposes at any profitable opportunity. They are the property of the nation, and the especial pride of London. In the case of St. Olave's, money—to whatever purpose it may be put—

is the sole reason for its demolition; the building is perfectly sound and its beauty unimpaired.

We talk much of London improvements, plan schemes for its embellishment, and preach the artistic education of the public, yet proceed to destroy the beautiful works we already possess. We declaim against the barbarians who shatter and burn the cathedrals of France under the pretext of military necessity, and are open to the biting rejoinder that English bishops will sell their own famous churches for the value of the ground they stand upon.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

HENRY T. HARE, *President*.

E. GUY DAWBER, *Hon. Secretary*.

When the Bill was before the House of Lords, the President, Mr. Henry T. Hare, submitted the following points for the consideration of Lord Muir-Mackenzie, Chairman of the Select Committee dealing with the matter:—

(1) The proposal for re-erecting the church on some other site, either wholly or in part, is virtually impracticable, or at least highly inadvisable. The design of the church is essentially that of a town or city church, hedged in and surrounded by secular buildings. The street frontage is entirely faced with stone, while that towards the river is mainly of brick with stone dressings. The western front is non-existent, abutting as it does upon an adjacent warehouse. For these reasons, among others, it would be most inappropriate to re-erect it on a site which did not reproduce the conditions under which it exists at present. Both on practical and æsthetic grounds such an experiment could not be otherwise than disastrous.

(2) The building as it stands at present is eminently suitable for use as an institute, mission house or club for the numerous workmen engaged in the vicinity. For this purpose it would lend itself almost without modification.

(3) No reason has been advanced for its removal which might not be urged with equal force in the case of almost all the City churches. Yet I venture to think that no authority would formulate such a policy for general adoption throughout the City.

These monuments of the past constitute a heritage, which each generation holds in trust, and which may not be destroyed without the most cogent reason, or necessity, and I trust it may yet be possible to avoid what is widely regarded as a disastrous course of action.

War Risks Insurance: Architects' and Surveyors' Fees.

The Secretary of the War Risks Insurance Office sends the following memorandum:—

Representations having been made to my Committee on the subject of an allowance for taking out quantities where no plans are necessary, the Committee have agreed, subject to the damage being such as, in their opinion, to necessitate professional services in connection with the reinstatement, to alter the terms of the allowances which may be deemed to be included in the insurance in the following manner:—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (a) In the case of structural damage necessitating the preparation of plans, whether these be prepared by an architect or surveyor | 5 % |
| (b) In the case of other damage to buildings | 2½ % |
| (c) When the damage exceeds £500 and the nature of the work requires quantities to be taken out—in addition to (a) or (b) ... | 2½ % |

The allowance under (c) will be made not only in cases where the damage exceeds £500 to an individual building, but where it exceeds £500 by one and the same raid, to two or more buildings belonging to the same owner or owners and insured by the same policy, and the quantities are taken out by the same architect or surveyor.

The new scale is not retrospective; it is applicable only to cases where the damage is agreed on and after this date.

Presentation to Mr. W. R. Davidge.

At a recent meeting of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association Mr. W. R. Davidge [A.] was presented with a collection of town planning and allied literature in recognition of his services as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association, and also of his Australian Town Planning Lecture Tour. Mr. Ewart G. Culpin, the secretary, stated that the results of the tour which Mr. Davidge undertook were apparent in every Australian mail, where references were being made to the good accomplished. Mr. Davidge had started a work in Australasia which was still spreading, thanks to the efforts still being made by Mr. Charles C. Reade, the other emissary of the Association, who had remained in Australia as Town Planning Adviser to the South Australian Government. He mentioned that at the recent Australian Town Planning Exhibition and Conference the following resolution was passed:—That the Australian Town Planning Conference and Exhibition place on record its thanks to the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association of Great Britain for its splendid achievement in arranging for the Australasian Town Planning Tour, 1914–15. Mr. Davidge had travelled right through America and through Australia on the service of the Association, and in addition to that, had placed his very valuable professional services at their constant disposal. Mr. John E. Champney, in making the presentation, regretted the absence of Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, who was to have presided, but who was detained by Government business. He expressed the gratitude of all the members to Mr. Davidge for what he had done, but he thought possibly the greatest satisfaction to Mr. Davidge would be the fact that he had taken a great share in the starting of a new movement in a new continent, which might bring incalculable benefits to future generations there. Mr. Davidge, in reply, expressed the satisfaction which the work had given him, and the hope that the Association would continue to progress as astonishingly as it had done during the last year or two.

The Cape Institute of Architects.

The Council have been much gratified by the sympathy and loyalty to the parent body shown in the following letter addressed to the Secretary from one of the Overseas Allied Societies, the Cape Institute of Architects:—

*Markham's Buildings, Hout Street,
Cape Town, 25th March 1918.*

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 31st January, enclosing cheque £5 5s. for "Refund" to hand. I am desired by the Council of the Cape Institute to return same to you and express their reasons for doing so. In these abnormal times, we in this country have so far not felt the effects of the War in anything like the same proportion that you have in the Old Country. Private work is still going on and most of our members are doing fairly well. Under these circumstances the Council have decided that the least they can do to help

the parent Institute and our professional brethren, is to return your contribution to this Institute, and to further state that they propose to adopt the same course during the continuance of the War. There is no doubt that my Council's action will be cordially endorsed at our annual meeting shortly to be held.—Yours faithfully,

T. A. DALGLEISH, *Secretary.*

The contribution in question is the amount refunded to the Cape Institute in respect of the subscriptions of members of that body who are also members of the R.I.B.A.

Attendances at Council and Standing Committee Meetings, July 1, 1917, to April 30, 1918.

COUNCIL (17 Meetings).

Henry T. Hare, President, 17; Sir John J. Burnet, LL.D., 0; Walter Cave, 9; J. Alfred Gotch, 2; Paul Waterhouse, 9; Thos. E. Colcutt, 0; Ernest Newton, A.R.A., 0; E. Guy Dawber, 13; S. D. Adshead, 6; Robert Atkinson, 8; T. Edwin Cooper, 6; H. P. Burke Downing, 12; G. Gilbert Scott, 4; George Hubbard, 11; J. J. Joass, 7; Arthur Keen, 13; H. V. Lanchester, 13; W. R. Lethaby, 10; A. G. R. Mackenzie, 6; D. Barclay Niven, 15; Andrew N. Prentice, 10; H. D. Searles-Wood, 15; F. M. Simpson, 8; John W. Simpson, 16; Percy S. Worthington, 1.

ASSOCIATE-MEMBERS.—Patrick Abercrombie, 2; H. W. Cubitt (on service), 0; W. R. Davidge, 9; L. Rome Guthrie (on service), 0; Herbert Shepherd, 16; Leslie Wilkinson (on service), 3.

REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLIED SOCIETIES.—R. Burns Dick, 0; J. B. Gass, 4; E. Percy Hinde, 1; Wm. Kaye-Parry, M.A., 0; Adam F. Watson, 2; John Watson, 0; Sir Frank W. Willis, 0.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.—H. M. Fletcher, 14.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Art (6 Meetings).—Arthur Keen, 5; W. A. Forsyth, 4; Chas. E. Sayer, 5; Robert Atkinson, 0; Sir John J. Burnet, 0; E. Guy Dawber, 2; J. Alfred Gotch, 0; Ernest Newton, A.R.A., 0; Halsey Ricardo, 0; Sir Aston Webb, A.R.A., 0; G. Gilbert Scott, 0; H. S. East, 2; J. B. Fulton, 1; Sidney K. Greenslade, 0; J. E. Newberry, 4; W. A. Webb, 3; Walter Tapper, 1; Harry Redfern, 1; John W. Simpson, 0; J. J. Joass, 0; Harry Sirr, 5.

Literature (3 Meetings).—Louis Ambler, 3; Detmar Blow, 0; Arthur T. Bolton, 1; Theodore Fyfe, 0; A. E. Richardson, 0; H. Heathcote Statham, 2; Arthur Stratton, 1; Paul Waterhouse, 0; H. H. Wigglesworth, 3; Patrick Abercrombie, 0; W. J. Davies, 3; F. R. Horns, 2; Stanley C. Ramsey, 0; Leslie Wilkinson, 1; H. G. Ibberson, 3; J. D. Crace, 2; Sir John J. Burnet, 0; H. M. Fletcher, 2; Brook Kitchen, 0.

Practice (9 Meetings).—W. H. Atkin-Berry, 8; Max Clarke, 7; H. P. Burke Downing, 3; Geo. Hubbard, 7; A. G. R. Mackenzie, 1; Alan E. Munby, 1; D. Barclay Niven, 6; W. Gilbee Scott, 5; A. Saxon Snell, 4; F. W. Troup, 5; H. V. Milnes Emerson, 4; Percival M. Fraser, 9; C. E. Hutchinson, 2; John H. Markham, 6; J. Douglas Scott, 4; A. Needham Wilson, 0; H. A. Satchell, 7; W. Henry White, 9; H. A. Saul, 2; Wm. Woodward, 8; F. A. Powell, 4.

Science (8 Meetings).—H. Percy Adams, 3; R. Stephen Ayling, 0; Horace Cheston, 6; A. O. Collard, 7; Alfred Conder, 6; W. E. Vernon Crompton, 5; Osborn C. Hills, 5; Geo. Hornblower, 5; Sydney Perks, 0; H. D. Searles-Wood, 4; R. J. Angel, 5; W. R. Davidge, 0; E. Stanley Hall, 0 (on service); Herbert Shepherd, 5; Digby L. Solomon, 6; E. A. Young, 3; B. J. Dicksee, 8; C. A. Daubney, 6; H. W. Burrows, 8; J. E. Franck, 5; W. Jacques, 4.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Henderson's "Byzantine Splendour."

Swan Cottage, Ridgeview Rd., Whetstone, N.20.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

SIR,—If it is true, as some critics avow, that a picture when first we see it ought not to suggest the question, "What is it all about?" but only, "How beautiful it is!" then Mr. A. E. Henderson in his wonderfully able painting, "Byzantine Splendour," has certainly succeeded in achieving the latter effect. The first impression is that of an arranged and beautiful mosaic of colour, and it is only after other visits that we discover the painter's grasp of detail and knowledge of Byzantine architecture. In point of craftsmanship, and skill in the rendering of detail, and in real beauty of colour, I cannot but think Mr. Henderson is akin in spirit to the artists of the mediæval period. Mr. E. L. Hampshire's suggestion is a good one, that its right place is in one of our public picture galleries, as an example of a splendid architectural subject finely conceived and painted.

G. LL. MORRIS [*Licentiate*].

THE EXAMINATIONS.

The Final: Alternative Problems in Design.

Instructions to Candidates.

1. The drawings, which should preferably be on uniform sheets of paper of not less than Imperial size, must be sent to the Secretary of the Board of Architectural Education, Royal Institute of British Architects, 9 Conduit Street, W., on or before the dates specified below.

2. Each set of drawings must be signed by the author, AND HIS FULL NAME AND ADDRESS, and the name of the school, if any, in which the drawings have been prepared, must be attached thereto.

3. All designs, whether done in a school or not, must be accompanied by a declaration from the Student that the design is his own work and that the drawings have been wholly executed by him. In the preparation of the design the Student may profit by advice.

4. Drawings for subjects (a) are to have the shadows projected at an angle of 45° in line, monochrome, or colour. Drawings in subjects (b) are to be finished as working drawings. Lettering on all drawings must be of a clear, scholarly, and unaffected character.

Subject XL.

(a) A MEMORIAL PUBLIC FOUNTAIN: *Drawings*, plan and elevation to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scale with full-size details.

(b) FACTORY to hold 300 hands—in the London district—to conform to the Factory Act and to all local conditions. Buildings to contain engine house and general office, mess rooms for hands, and showroom, lavatory accommodation. Lifts for raw materials to top of building, packing room with due access to road and railway. Show possible extensions outside for future developments.

Subject XLI.

(a) ARTIST'S STUDIO AND HOUSE ON AN ISLAND IN A LAKE: *Drawings*, plans, elevation and section to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scale and 1 sheet of details to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch scale.

(b) DAIRY FOR A LARGE COUNTRY HOUSE: *Drawings*, plan, 2 elevations, section to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scale with any details to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch scale.

Subject XLII.

(a) The first floor of a CITY OFFICE is used for BOARD-ROOM, chairman's room, chairman's lavatory and staircase. Size of building between walls, 30 feet by 17 feet 6 inches. Building lighted front and back. Give plan and section to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scale, also section through board-room and staircase landing to 1-inch scale with full size details.

(b) A gentleman farmer has decided to build a PAIR OF COTTAGES for his head gardener and head stableman at a cost of about £500, the paid pre-war prices. Required plan, elevation and section to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scale, working drawings. Cube out the building and show how you work out the cost.

Dates for Submission of Designs in 1918-19.

	Subj. XL.	Subj. XLI.	Subj. XLII.
United Kingdom	31st Aug.	31st Oct.	31st Dec.
Johannesburg	31st Oct.	30th Dec.	28th Feb.
Melbourne	30th Nov.	31st Jan.	31st Mar.
Sydney	30th Nov.	31st Jan.	31st Mar.
Toronto	30th Sept.	30th Nov.	31st Jan.

OBITUARY.

Lieut. Roland Walter Lines [F.].—I have just seen in the current issue of the JOURNAL that Roland Walter Lines, Fellow of the Institute, and Lieut. of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, has been killed in action. I met Lines in the west of Canada about two years before the war, and while I was staying in Alberta I went in for one or two competitions with him with the idea of a future partnership. He was an extremely genial and kindly man, with a host of friends all through the west of Canada. He was a pupil in an office in the Midlands—in Birmingham, I think—and after practising for a year or two in this country, he went out to the west of Canada, where success came to him almost immediately. He was a man of undoubted talent, and had already built up one of the largest practices in the Western States. He was an all-round sportsman, and, as might have been anticipated, joined up very early in the war, and was given a commission in the Canadian Engineers. He will be missed by a very large circle of friends from the town of Edmonton in Alberta, where he practised, and in the west generally.—ARTHUR BARTLETT [F.], Lieut. R.E.S.

Lieut. George Francis Blackburne-Daniell, who was killed in action near Monchy on 24th April, 1917, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Blackburne-Daniell, of 19 Nevern Place, S.W. Born on 8th June, 1878, and educated at Marlborough and Cambridge, he served his articles with Sir Aston Webb. Late in 1903 he went to Egypt to join Mr. Somers Clarke and Dr. Sayce in an expedition to excavate some early Egyptian tombs at El-Kab. In 1906 he was appointed to a position in the Public Works Department of the Egyptian Civil Service. He remained in Egypt, doing at times much arduous and responsible work, until August, 1915, when he obtained a commission in the Royal Fusiliers, having volunteered for service early in the war. After a few months' training in England he left for France. During the winter of 1916-17 he worked chiefly at camps and railheads, frequently under fire, and in April, 1917, he joined his regiment in the advance from Arras. On the evening of April 24, while leading his men into action after the senior officer had been wounded, he was killed instantly by a shell. In a letter to his young widow his Captain wrote: "We all admired your husband immensely—not only for his own personality, but because of his pluck and grit in sticking to us through a very bad time, when many

far younger failed"; and another friend: "He had endeared himself to all, so that his loss is deeply felt in the battalion." He married in 1916, Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eastwick, of Fyning Wood, Rogate, Sussex.

MINUTES.

At a General Meeting (Business) held Monday 10th June 1918 at 5.30 p.m.—Present: Mr. Henry T. Hare, *President*, in the Chair; 14 Fellows (including 10 members of the Council), 4 Associates, and 1 Hon. Associate, the Minutes of the Meeting held 6th May having been published in the JOURNAL were taken as read and signed as correct.

The Hon. Secretary announced that since the last Meeting notification had been received that the following members had been killed in action, viz.: 2nd Lieut. George Marrison Stone, R.E., *Associate*, elected 1910; Lieut. John Eric Reynolds, R.A.F., *Student*; Tom Williamson Hooley, *Associate*, elected 1896; Lieut. Joseph Charles Gladstone Davies, *Associate*, elected 1911; Alan Binning, *Associate*, elected 1911. On the motion of the Hon. Secretary, it was RESOLVED, that the Institute's deepest regret for the loss of these members be entered on the Minutes, and that a message of sympathy be conveyed to their nearest relatives.

The decease was also announced of Percivall Currey, elected Associate 1880, Fellow 1888, for many years Hon. Secretary of the Architects' Benevolent Society, and it was Resolved, that the Institute do record its regret at his loss and that a vote of condolence be passed to his widow and family.

Further, the decease was announced of Thomas Kershaw, *Associate* 1895; Henry Thomas Gradon, *Associate* 1887; Arthur Nyton Peckham, *Associate* 1914; George Frederick Maskelyne Merriman, *Licentiate*, and Robert Willey, *Associate* 1871, *Fellow* 1880, *Retired Fellow* 1903.

Arthur John Stedman, *Fellow*, attending for the first time since his election, was formally admitted by the President.

The following were elected by show of hands:—

AS FELLOW.

HOPE: ARTHUR JOHN [Licentiate, passed the Qualifying Examination for membership].

AS HON. ASSOCIATE.

WEST: REV. GEORGE HERBERT, D.D. [*Associate* 1871-1917].

Mr. Herbert W. Wills [F.], in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That this Meeting express disapprobation of the action of the Council in permitting a form to go out with their sanction in which the following clause occurs: 'Reasons (if any) for which you consider it to the National advantage that the building should be erected without delay,' and request the Council to inform the Ministry of Reconstruction that the R.I.B.A. is opposed to any form of war control of building operations being exercised after the declaration of peace."

Mr. George Hubbard, F.S.A. [F.] having seconded the motion, Mr. Herbert Shepherd [A.] pointed out that a question of management of the Institute being involved, the Meeting was insufficiently constituted to deal with the Resolution, By-law 67 requiring a quorum of 50 members.

The Hon. Secretary having read the By-law, the President ruled that the objection was valid.

Mr. John W. Simpson [F.] explained that the action complained of by Mr. Wills was not the action of the Council but of the appointed representatives of the Council, the President, Mr. Paul Waterhouse, and himself, and proceeded to show that the form they were consulted upon had nothing to do with the question of control; that the latter question was considered later and that a statement published recently in the JOURNAL and professional Press showed that the Institute representatives were strongly opposed to control and advocated its abolition.

The President further explained the attitude of the Institute representatives, pointing out that they had not

committed themselves to any approval of control; further, that the question complained of did not imply that there would be control, its aim being merely to obtain certain information in case control should be found necessary.

Upon the motion of Mr. W. R. Davidge [A.], seconded by Mr. Shepherd, a resolution was then put and carried that the Meeting expresses its satisfaction with the explanations which had been given by the President and Mr. Simpson.

The President, before dissolving the Meeting, announced that the Council in the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Clause 2 of the Supplemental Charter had at their Meeting that afternoon elected to the Fellowship Mr. Leslie Wilkinson [A.], who was leaving for Australia to take up his duties as Professor of Architecture at the University of Sydney, New South Wales.

The proceedings terminated at 6 p.m.

NOTICES.

Presentation of the Royal Gold Medal.

A GENERAL MEETING (ORDINARY) will be held Monday, 24th June 1918, at 5.30 p.m., for the following purposes:—

To read the Minutes of the General Meeting (Business) held Monday, 10th June 1918; formally to admit Members and Licentiates attending for the first time since their election.

To present the Royal Gold Medal for the promotion of Architecture, conferred by His Majesty the King, to Mr. Ernest Newton, A.R.A., Past President R.I.B.A., in recognition of the merit of his executed work.

The Associateship: Special War Regulations.

On the recommendation of the Board of Architectural Education the Council have granted temporary concessions to Students R.I.B.A. and others seeking to qualify for Associateship R.I.B.A. These concessions include:

(A) *Special War Exemption* for Students R.I.B.A. who have attained the age of 21 years, and (1) have passed the Intermediate Examination, or have passed through a full course at any of the Schools recognised by the R.I.B.A. and received certificates which give exemption from that examination, and (2) have served in some full-time employment in His Majesty's Forces during the war for a period of not less than two years, or have relinquished their commissions or been discharged from service after less than that period owing to wounds or other disability arising from or in such service.

(B) *Special War Examination* open for three years after the declaration of peace to candidates who have attained the age of at least 21 years and are not eligible for, or desirous of availing themselves of, the Special War Exemption, and have served in some full-time employment in His Majesty's Forces during the war for a period of not less than two years, or have relinquished their commissions or been discharged from service after less than that period owing to wounds or other disability arising from or in such service.

Further particulars of these concessions may be had from the Secretary R.I.B.A.

Licentiates and the Fellowship.

Particulars of the Examination of Licentiates wishing to qualify for Fellowship may be obtained from the Secretary.

FOR SALE by Officer's Widow, architect's chest in well-seasoned wood, fitted with drawers. Length 5 feet 2 inches, breadth 3 feet 2 inches, height 1 foot 10 inches. Also two architect's stools, leather seats. £10 accepted.—Apply "Box 155," 9 Conduit Street, W.

